

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER

Volume XXI, Issue No. 295

TUESDAY DECEMBER 13, 2011

www.saipantribune.com 50¢

Visit us online @
www.saipantribune.com

OPINION METER

This week's poll:
Have you put up any
Christmas décor yet?

Let your voice be heard!
Go to
www.saipantribune.com
to cast your vote.

12
DAYS TO GO
BEFORE
Christmas

INSIDE



New Location

670 Rock Steady Shop has moved to a new and bigger location in Gualo Rai.

BUSINESS...Page 13



Top Act

Adele dominated music this year, and iTunes was no exception.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 21

'CNMI's 24-hour water coverage now 80 pct.' PAGE 2
AG: Fitial has authority to extend austerity. PAGE 7

HR 1466 ready for House action

» Fitial admin's 'tentative action' may be lawsuit vs USCIS
» CBO: Implementation has no significant net cost to federal govt

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan's bill seeking a grant of CNMI-only resident status to four groups of aliens is now ready for action by the full U.S. House of Representatives after a second panel approved it on Thursday, even as the Fitial administration said yesterday its "tentative action" may be to file a motion for preliminary injunction against U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services' decision to grant parole for most of those covered by Sablan's H.R. 1466.

See HR 1466 on Page 4

CUC seeks up to 12.7 percent base rate hike

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. submitted an emergency rate hike petition on Dec. 8 that seeks to increase its power base rate by up to 12.7 percent effective Feb. 1, 2012.

In the six-page petition submitted by CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher, the utilities company cited four major factors in seeking increased base rate charges: the significant decrease in billed usage that must be adjusted; substantial

See CUC on Page 4



SERENADING THE ELDERLY

Kagman High School students sing

Christmas carols to the man'amko at the Aging Center yesterday. Inset, members of the Kagman High School JROTC rifle drill team do a drill exhibition for the senior citizens at the Aging Center.

CLARISSA V. DAVID



See story on Page 5

Fund to sue PSS

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund will sue the Public School System over its \$28-million unpaid employer contributions, according to Fund chair Sixto K. Igisomar. He said the decision came after both sides failed to reach an agreement.

See FUND on Page 4

PSS issues stop-work order to some non-US citizen staff

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Education Commissioner Rita A. Sablan has directed the Public School System's non-U.S. citizen employees who failed to turn in required documents as proof that they have legal status to stop working effective Dec. 9.

tive Dec. 9.

In a memo issued Tuesday last week, Sablan advised affected staff that, pursuant to the mandates of the Consolidated Natural Resources Act of 2008, PSS must verify the employment authorization of all its employees. She said that PSS is compelled to request affected employees

to provide the required documents as failure to do so would result in their separation from the system.

Saipan Tribune learned that several PSS employees bade goodbye to their schools and students last Friday as a result of the memo.

Among them is classroom teacher

See PSS on Page 4



UNWRAP
the possibilities

The BEST Deals on the COOLEST Phones

Saipan: 682-4ITE (4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Roca: 532-3599 • www.ite.net



Local

OIA's Babauta: NMI's 24-hour water coverage now 80 pct.

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With the help of over \$30 million in federal funds, the CNMI's 24-hour water coverage has increased from 26 percent in 2006 to 80 percent this year, according to Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta.

Babauta made the statement during yesterday's ribbon cutting for the Agag well fields isolation and water system improvement project, which the Interior Department funded with some \$826,000.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Gov. Eloy S. Inos joined Babauta at the ceremony that also attended by representatives of the Water Task Force, Commonwealth Utilities Corp., Capital Improvement Project Office, project contractor AIC Marianas, and other guests.

Babauta will be on Rota today for the completion of another utilities project, among other things. He was on Tinian last week.

The OIA official said they have been supporting the work of the Fitial administration and

the Water Task Force in improving water services, thus the over \$30 million in OIA investments in CNMI water projects.

Inos, in his brief remarks, said the project completion is "yet another good indication of the government's commitment to ensure that public funds are spent prudently for the benefit of our people."

"With this isolation of the Agag well to the Capital Hill reservoir, the residents of Pagago can now enjoy better water services through the installation of new waterlines and advance distribution technol-

ogy," he said.

He cited Babauta and OIA for their "generous assistance in awarding the CNMI some \$826,000 for this project," and commended the CIP Office, the CNMI Water Task Force, and CUC "for coordinating and facilitating this project along with the contractor, AIC Marianas."

This is a three-part project that includes two other well sites in Dandan and Gualo Rai.

"We certainly look forward to the completion of those two sites in the very near future," said Inos.



A weekly update from the Marianas Visitors Authority
Tourism is everybody's business.

Kuroda Wedding Brings Publicity

Famous Japanese actor Arthur Kuroda tied the knot in Saipan on Dec. 4, bringing additional attention to this beach resort destination in its primary tourism market of Japan.

The Marianas Visitors Authority capitalized on the ceremony of Kuroda and Shiho Miyata by negotiating coverage of the nuptials with nationwide morning show "Morning Bird" on TV Asahi and Tokyo Broadcasting System (TBS).



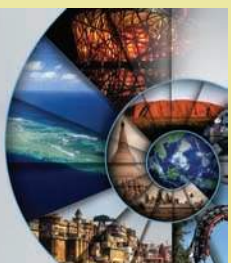
Kuroda is also represented by talent manager and CNMI Honorary Tourism Ambassador Chiaki Nagumo.

TBS attended the event and also filmed tourism sites on Saipan, with special mention of the benefits of celebrating a Saipan wedding. TBS also agreed to distribute the footage to other TV news and entertainment programs.

Coverage of the Kuroda nuptials will air in Japan throughout December and bring the Northern Marianas an estimated \$460,000 in advertising coverage. So far this calendar year, about 2 percent of all visitors to the Northern Marianas from Japan have come on a honeymoon or to get married.



PATA CELEBRATES
60 YEARS
OF BUILDING
RESPONSIBLE TOURISM



This Tourism Tuesday space is provided by Saipan Tribune

YOU'VE BEEN ON THE NICE LIST!

Prepaid phones include \$10 load & FREE SIM.

NOKIA 6070 FREE*
No Contract & Prepaid
\$54

SAMSUNG E3210 FREE*
No Contract & Prepaid
\$79

NOKIA C2-01 FREE*
No Contract & Prepaid
\$89

LG A165 FREE*
No Contract & Prepaid
\$89

SAMSUNG E2530 FREE*
No Contract & Prepaid
\$80

NO CONTRACTS

CLEAR 500 \$1950 per month 500 Local Minutes Unlimited Local SMS	CLEAR 1000 \$2950 per month 1000 Local Minutes Unlimited Local Nights Unlimited Local Weekends
CLEAR 1500 \$3950 per month 1500 Local Minutes Unlimited Local Nights Unlimited Local Weekends	CLEAR UNLIMITED \$5950 per month Unlimited Local Calls

NOKIA X3-02 \$99
No Contract & Prepaid **\$179**

SAMSUNG Galaxy Y \$49
No Contract & Prepaid **\$199**

SHARE THE LOVE WITH DOCOMO PACIFIC GIFT CARDS!

NTT docomo DOCOMO PACIFIC
CNMI's most powerful GSM network. Islandwide. Worldwide.

483-CARE | Gualo Rai
www.docomopacific.com

*24-month voice and data plan required. Offer valid from December 12 - 31, 2011. Visit stores for additional details, while supplies last. Some conditions apply.

CUC warns of possible contamination near Agingan Point

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. reported yesterday the potential contamination of water near the Agingan wastewater treatment plant and cautioned the public not to fish or swim in the affected area until the potential contamination is resolved.

"While unconfirmed, we believe the discharge may present a temporary risk to public health because of harmful organisms

found in wastewater. We urge caution and advise the public to avoid any fishing, swimming, wading, and other water contact recreation in the areas adjacent to Agingan Point," the CUC statement said.

The agency disclosed that it suffered a failure in its southern sewerage conveyance system near the Agingan Wastewater Treatment Plant. CUC crew worked on-site

throughout the weekend to repair problems, one being a force-main repair completed on Saturday, with no additional overflows.

Subsequently, CUC said that

two pumping stations clogged and there is sewage overflow in the areas south of Pacific Islands Club. Crews continue to make repairs and remediate any

overflows, according to CUC. "Due to this failure, we have experienced untreated wastewaters entering the waters in the areas of Agingan Point. The

CUC Lab has performed marine water samples in the affected areas and test results are due mid-day Tuesday," CUC added. *(Moneth G. Deposa)*

Senate resolution seeks SOCA on Valentine's Day

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) pre-filed yesterday a joint resolution asking Gov. Benigno R. Fitial to deliver his State of the Commonwealth Address and Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan (Ind-MP) to report on federal matters concerning the CNMI during a joint session of the House and Senate on Feb. 14, Valentine's Day, at 10am.

However, as of yesterday, it's not clear whether Fitial will still go ahead with a 2011 written report to the Legislature on the State of the Commonwealth.

Fitial sent a 2010 written State of the Commonwealth report to lawmakers toward the end of December 2010.

If Fitial waits until Feb. 14, 2012, to report to the Legislature—either through SOCA or a written report—he might have

violated the Constitution for not having a 2011 report.

Although there is no requirement in U.S. Public Law 10-229, the law that placed CNMI immigration under federal control, for the CNMI congressional delegate to report to the people, Manglona said "it is important for the people and the government of the CNMI to be informed on the efforts of his CNMI delegate's office to advance and protect the CNMI's interests and to address other federal matters concerning the Commonwealth at a joint session of both houses of the Legislature."

The proposed venue for the joint session to receive the governor's SOCA and the delegate's report is the House chamber in Capital Hill. *(Haidee V. Eugenio)*

New postal service unveiled in Dandan

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Over 40 customers took advantage of the grand opening promotion of Dandan Postal Services across Joeten Dandan last Dec. 10. The promotion allowed customers to rent a mailbox for the first three months for free.

The grand opening featured a ribbon cutting ceremony led by Dandan Postal Services owner Joe Ayuyu, who also owns McDonald's Saipan, and his wife Marcia Ayuyu.

Fr. Rey D. Rosal, San Vicente parish priest, did the invocation and the blessing of the establishment.

Joe Ayuyu, in his remarks, recounted how Dandan Postal Services came about when he purchased the building through Bank of Guam last year. He thanked Saipan Postmaster Amy Marshall for helping them set up the business.

"In this bad economic time, I think any job created is a good sign for the islands. I hope we're contributing to the community in our own way," said Joe Ayuyu, adding that



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Dandan Postal Services owner Joe Ayuyu, third right, and his wife Marcia Ayuyu, third left, lead the ribbon cutting ceremony for the Dandan Postal Services last Dec. 10. From left, Commerce acting secretary Sixto Igisomar, House Speaker Eli Cabrera, Marcia Ayuyu, Joe Ayuyu, Sen. Pete Reyes, and Fr. Rey Rosal.

he remains optimistic that the business will grow to allow him to add more staff.

Saturday's event was also attended by some dignitaries, including House Speaker Eli Cabrera (R-Saipan), Sen. Pete Reyes (R-Saipan), acting Commerce secretary Sixto Igisomar, and Bank of Guam vice president and CNMI regional man-

ager Marcie Tomokane.

Cabrera, who signed up for a second mailbox at the event, said that Dandan residents have a lot to be happy about. Besides the new postal service, traffic lights at the San Vicente/Dandan junction were also recently activated.

"I congratulate Joe Ayuyu for giving convenience to many residents here in the

area," he said.

Igisomar, for his part, said it's great to see a new business open up. "Taking the opportunity and the risk to open a business in this kind of environment is not easy," he said.

During the event, refreshments were served to guests while Hapi D' Clown provided entertainment for the children.

CNMI GOVERNMENT EMPLOYEES 2012 Health Insurance Rates

More Benefits for a Lower Price!

**No Rate Increase
for 2012**



**New Silver Plus Option
available for people with certain
pre-existing conditions.**

CLASS	ACTIVE GOVT	MEDICAL	MED & DENTAL
Single	STAYWELL	\$65.00	\$91.00
	Aetna High Option	\$100.93	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$ 93.97	No Dental Plan
	StayWell Annual savings = \$934 + Potential Refund of \$ 375		
Couple	STAYWELL	\$130.00	\$182.00
	Aetna High Option	\$206.90	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$191.39	No Dental Plan
	StayWell Annual savings = \$1,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 750		
Family	STAYWELL	\$208.00	\$265.00
	Aetna High Option	\$322.96	No Dental Plan
	Aetna Low Option	\$298.78	No Dental Plan
	StayWell Annual savings = \$2,999 + Potential Refund of \$ 1,236		

STAYWELL BENEFITS

Member Refund Program
Common Law Spouses Included
*100% coverage for off-island in-patient care

Out of Pocket Annual Maximum:
Single = \$ 1,500; Family= \$4,500

*Some conditions apply

AETNA BENEFITS

No Refund Program
Common Law Spouses Covered at Higher Rates
70 – 80% coverage for off-island inpatient care

Out of Pocket Annual Maximums:
High Option: Single = \$ 4,000; family = \$ 12,000
Low Option: Single = \$ 10,000; family = \$ 30,000

Probable cause found to charge 2 alleged 'ice' suppliers

Superior Court associate judge David A. Wiseman yesterday found probable cause to warrant the filing of charges against two suspected suppliers of methamphetamine or "ice."

At a preliminary hearing, Wiseman determined that there is prob-

able cause to believe that the crimes of trafficking of controlled substance, illegal possession of controlled substance, and resisting arrest were committed and that Jun Qing Chen and Yu Hua Wang may have committed the offenses.

Chen, 36, appeared with counsel, Stephen C. Woodruff. The 34-year-old Wang was with counsel, chief public defender Adam Hardwicke.

Chen and Wang were arrested last Dec. 5. Their bail has been set at \$60,000 cash each.

Assistant attorney general Russell Lorring called to the witness stand detective Dennis Reyes, who testified how they were able to buy \$200 and \$400 worth of "ice" from Cheng and Wang using a confidential source in two operations.

Reyes said that 4.45 gross grams of "ice" worth \$7,000 was involved as

they also recovered more "ice" from one of the suspects' cars.

The detective said the suspects were uncooperative and resisted arrest when police tried to pull over their vehicles in Koblerville and San Antonio.

Cheng had told the court at the Dec. 6 hearing that he would sue for police brutality. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

EEOC calls first witness in sex harassment suit

The U.S. Equal Employment Opportunity Commission called its first witness yesterday in the sexual harassment lawsuit it filed on behalf of a band singer who claimed that a then restaurant manager of a hotel made sexual advances on her.

EEOC trial attorneys Nancy Griffiths and Derek Li called to the witness stand Ivan Quichocho, vice president

of operations for Tan Holdings, who went to Manila, the Philippines, where he interviewed the singer. Quichocho completed his testimony yesterday.

U.S. District Court for the NMI Chief Judge Ramona V. Manglona completed the jury selection in the afternoon.

Griffiths conducted the opening statements for EEOC, while attorney Steven Pixley made the opening state-

ments for defendants Asia Pacific Hotels Inc. and Tan Holdings.

When *Saipan Tribune* left the courtroom in the afternoon, Griffiths was still giving his opening statements.

EEOC claims that the defendants subjected the singer to a sexually hostile work environment in violation of Title VII of the Civil Rights Act. EEOC alleges that the defendants are liable for damages for their conduct.

Asia Pacific Hotels Inc., which oper-

ates the Saipan Grand Hotel, and Tan Holdings, claim that the singer was motivated to file the EEOC charges because she wanted to stay in the CNMI.

The defendants also claim that they exercised reasonable care to prevent and promptly correct any sexually ha-

arrassing behavior. The defendants allege that the singer unreasonably failed to take advantage of any preventive or corrective opportunities provided her.

EEOC is expected to call more witnesses today, Tuesday. (**Ferdie de la Torre**)

FUND

From Page 1

As of Oct. 31, 2011, PSS owed the Fund \$26.744 million but Igisomar said the actual employer contributions owed by PSS is actually closer to \$28 million. The money represents unpaid employer contributions spanning several years.

"Yes, we did give direction to our counsels with respect to uncollectible amounts from PSS. We've been negotiating with them for quite a long time on this issue and we've come to a point where we just can't keep going like this. We have come to a solution and we decided on this course of action: to formalize this item in a court process," said Igisomar.

Going to court is always a "nice way," he said, to formalize things if there is no action or movement on the account.

According to Igisomar, the Fund did its best to iron out differences with employers who owe the agency unpaid employer contributions. Some of these

successful negotiations are with the Commonwealth Ports Authority and Marianas Visitors Authority.

"We have a good experience in talking to agencies and we're able to iron out our differences resulting in payment of their accounts," he said.

The board also tackled in Friday's closed-door session the issue with Commonwealth Utilities Corp. According to Igisomar, the utilities company is disputing the amount it owes the Fund and is offering payment proposals based on what it insists it owes.

The Fund earlier sued CUC for its \$4.44 million unpaid employer contributions covering several years.

"CUC was sending back and forth their offers and we did give direction to our counsels to respond to that offer," Igisomar said. He refused to comment further as the case is pending in court.

In disputing the Fund's numbers, CUC cited various laws to justify its own calculations. Igisomar insists, however, that the Fund is not making

up its numbers and that it is just following what the law states.

According to him, the Fund is just using what the court had determined in the 2009 case between the central government and the Fund. "That case put some clarity on those laws, that's why we're using them. If we don't agree, the court will make the decision."

In an earlier interview with PSS finance director Richard Waldo, he said PSS projects to incur an \$8 million shortfall this fiscal year as a result of the significant increase in the employer contribution rate—from 37 percent to 61 percent. He said there's no way the school system can afford that rate.

Waldo had said that PSS will ask the central government to absorb its unpaid obligation to the Fund because PSS is a non-revenue generating agency and is part of the government.

Igisomar refused to comment if this is constitutional, saying there are legal questions that may be involved in making it happen.

HR 1466

From Page 1

USCIS' grant of this parole is on a case-by-case basis. While there is no deadline for applying for this type of parole, USCIS "strongly recommends" that eligible individuals apply on or before Jan. 31, 2012.

HR 1466 got the U.S. House Committee on Judiciary's approval on Thursday, and was placed on union calendar.

A committee report on the bill says HR 1466 would affect roughly 5,000 to 7,300 aliens legally residing in the CNMI. Sablan's office maintains that this figure is higher than the actual number of aliens covered.

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing HR 1466 "would have no significant net cost to the federal government" and enacting the bill "would not affect revenues."

The committee report said based on information from the U.S. Department of Homeland Security, DHS would charge a fee of \$500 to \$1,000 in 2012 to several thousand applicants for permanent CNMI residence.

"CBO estimates that additional fee collections in 2012 would be less than \$5 million. No significant additional amounts would be collected in 2015 because visas granted to CNMI residents would be offset by a reduction in visas available for other immigrants," the report said.

A day after the Committee on Judiciary approval of HR 1466, USCIS

released the application guidelines for this type of parole that, if granted, would allow certain "stateless" individuals and immediate relatives of U.S. citizens to lawfully remain in the CNMI until Dec. 31, 2012.

"If it passes the U.S. House before the end of the year, it will be the greatest Christmas gift that those covered by HR 1466 will receive this year," said Bonifacio Sagana, president of Dekada Movement and a long-time worker advocate in the CNMI.

While not all long-term foreign workers in the CNMI are covered by HR 1466, Sagana said that at least it tries to help four groups of people.

"I am thankful that Kilili's bill continues to move forward...Although we continue to request that there will be improved immigration status for all long-term alien workers in the CNMI," he told *Saipan Tribune*.

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, at the same time, said yesterday he hasn't seen any legislation introduced that reflects Interior's full recommendation for a grant of improved status to long-term aliens in the CNMI.

The recommendations include granting outright U.S. citizenship, permanent residence status, and a grant of status similar to those given to Freely Associated States citizens.

Attorney General Edward Buckingham separately said yesterday that the "tentative action that may be undertaken by the Commonwealth is a motion for a preliminary injunction."

Buckingham emphasized that the

status of this matter is that it is currently under review as to both facts and law.

"Accordingly, no final decision has been reached concerning this issue," he said in an email response to questions.

Gov. Benigno R. Fitial asked Buckingham to review the facts and law to determine what legal actions, if any, may be appropriate for consideration by the Commonwealth in relation to the USCIS decision.

"A review takes such time as is necessary to reach an appropriate conclusion. No estimate is currently available; however, given the seriousness of this matter, the Commonwealth is proceeding as quickly as possible," he added.

Once HR 1466 hurdles the U.S. House, it will have to pass the U.S. Senate before going to the president's desk for enactment.

Sablan's HR 1466 proposes a "CNMI-only resident status" for immediate relatives of U.S. citizens as of May 8, 2008 and continuing to be on the islands, CNMI permanent residents, those born in the CNMI between Jan. 1, 1974 and Jan. 9, 1978, and the spouses, parents or children of U.S. citizens under the Immigration and Nationality Act.

Rene Reyes, president of Marianas Advocates for Humanitarian Affairs Ltd., said yesterday they always welcome any legislation that will help improve the status of guest workers, even if it covers only four groups.

Nevertheless, Reyes hopes that Congress will also act on the Interior's recommendation of granting improved status to all long-term guest workers.

CUC

From Page 1

increase in retirement contribution this fiscal year from 37 percent to 61 percent; the need to account for Commonwealth Development Authority dividend payments beginning 2012; and the additional expenses that must be paid for as a result of the adoption of Telesource change order No. 5.

This petition is expected to be heard and decided at the January 2012 pub-

PSS

From Page 1

Terry Patris of San Vicente Elementary School, who has been an employee of PSS for the past 11 years. She told *Saipan Tribune* she has no choice but to abide by the memorandum.

According to Patris, she was not fully aware that besides the Form I-9, she also needed to apply for an employment authorization document, or EAD. She immediately went to USCIS after receiving the PSS memorandum and applied for parole-in-place so she could apply for an EAD. She believes, however, that the EAD will never make it to the Dec. 9 deadline.

At San Vicente Elementary School, two other staff—former teacher aides who have been serving the school for many years—also had similar fates.

One of these teacher aides said yesterday that upon receiving the memorandum, she joined other affected employees in other schools to seek clarification from Sablan. She hopes that once she submits the required documents, PSS will allow them to return.

Many of the affected PSS staff are immediate relatives, or IRs, who failed to process their green cards. Under the new immigration policy, these IRs are considered out of status if their papers are not processed by the Nov. 28, 2011, deadline.

At Koblerville Elementary School, principal Rizalina Purunggan confirmed that two of her staff were affected by the changes. She said both the school's librarian aide and custodian stopped working on Friday. One has already applied for parole-in-place in order to apply for an EAD but the application has yet to be approved by USCIS.

Kagman Elementary School principal Ignacia Demapan also confirmed that she had to let go of one of her teachers on Friday due to the non-submission of the required documents.

Garapan Elementary School principal Paulette Sablan refused to disclose any information about the matter and referred this reporter to the Human Resource Office.

Newly installed HRO director

lic hearing and business meeting of the Commonwealth Public Utilities Commission.

The base rate was last increased in June this year, but CUC said the approved rate was lower than what it had asked for.

In its testimony supporting the new rate hike petition, CUC consultant economists.com said that because the average residential ratepayer uses between 250 and 500 kWh per month, the rate hike will boost the average residential ratepayer's monthly charge by \$4.87 to \$6.87.

Coreen Palacios did not answer her phone when contacted several times yesterday.

Commissioner Sablan told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that she could not comment further on the issue.

Comment from USCIS

According to Marie Therése Sebrechts, regional media manager for USCIS, if the EAD was applied for before Nov. 28, 2011, an eligible worker is allowed to continue working while waiting a decision on his or her petition.

"If the EAD was applied for before Nov. 28, 2011, for an eligible employee...then the employee is allowed to continue working while awaiting a decision on the employer's petition. On Oct. 5, 2011, USCIS announced that parole will be made available for individuals waiting for a decision on a nonimmigrant employment-based petition. The decision to provide parole for this particular group came in response to input received from the public during USCIS outreach sessions from Sept. 20-30.

"Employers and workers were concerned that businesses would have to close if the benefiting employees had to leave the CNMI to await decisions on their employer's I-129 petitions. There was particular concern about a negative impact on schools and hospitals. USCIS made this decision based on the importance of supporting movement into regular employment-based non-immigrant categories under the Immigration and Nationality Act," she told *Saipan Tribune* in an email yesterday.

She added that foreign workers in the CNMI may apply for parole and an EAD to remain in the CNMI and continue working while awaiting a decision on their employer's Petition for a Nonimmigrant Worker, Form I-129. She said that parole and work authorization must be current for the foreign worker to legally remain in the CNMI and continue working while awaiting a decision on their Form I-129 (such as an H-1B).

Without parole and work authorization, a foreign worker is unable to work and must leave the CNMI and wait for a decision outside the United States, she added.

Kagman students serenade *man'amko* with holiday carols

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

With Christmas just around the corner, various groups are lining up for their turn to sing yuletide carols to the congregates at the Aging Center.

Kagman High School students were the first in line with a special performance for the island's senior citizens on Tuesday morning.

Wearing Santa hats, 22 mem-

bers of the Kagman JROTC unit led by Master Sergeant James Burke and 10 students under the special education class marched from the Sugar King Park all the way to the Aging Center.

Yesterday's program began with the JROTC's rifle drill team putting on an exhibition for the *man'amko*.

The congregates then proceeded indoors where they listened to the students sing Christmas songs in English

and Chamorro. The students also gave away handmade cards and Christmas treats to the senior citizens.

"Every year, Kagman High School students come here to sing Christmas carols to us. We're thankful and happy for that," said Rosalina H. Navat, who has been at the center for six years.

Lucy Atalig said she clapped when the students sang for them and especially liked the card and treats she got. "I felt that Christmas is here with us," she said.

Abdul T. De Jesus, who joined the center about a month ago, said he feels excited that Kagman High School students and other groups will be performing for them this holiday season.

"We were all pleased. I myself am very happy when I heard the Christmas songs," said De Jesus, 81.

Saipan Seniors Advisory Council chair Teresita Sorroza thanked the Kagman High students on behalf of the entire congregation and Aging Office director Rose Mondala.

"The gentlemen demonstrated their ability to join in the military in the future and we really felt that Christmas is around the corner through the songs they performed. We wish them, their families and friends a very Merry Christmas," Sorroza told *Saipan Tribune*.

Burke said that they have been doing the Christmas show at the Aging Center for several years now. This year's program

took about two weeks to prepare, with the students planning, practicing, and organizing the show even during weekends.

Burke said the event is a service learning activity for the students, an opportunity where they can interact and talk to the *man'amko* and relate to their experiences.

"We're always glad to come down here and interact with the Aging Center... It's a very, very happy learning experience for everybody," he added.

Battalion Commander Keisha Manglona said she feels grateful for having the chance to learn many things by interacting with the *man'amko*. "By interacting with them I was able to see what they've done in life and who they became," she said.

Markeda Harris said this is the third year that she became a part of the annual event. "It's really overwhelming to see the smiling faces of our senior citizens. It makes me feel proud of myself for being a part of it."

Second Lt. Mona Indalecio, for her part, believes that the *man'amko* appreciate the event. "They feel that someone does care for them. I look forward to next year's event."

Kagman High special education teacher Richard Masiwemai, for his part, said "It's good seeing the familiar faces again. The kids practiced for this and they really love doing it. We wish the *man'amko* Merry Christmas, happy holidays, God bless, and we hope to see them next year."

Two women allegedly hit niece with bamboo rake

Two women were arrested over the weekend for allegedly beating up their niece and hitting her with a bamboo rake after accusing her of stealing money from them.

Ana Martha Teregeyo, 38, and Francella Teregeyo Mengar, 35, were taken to the Superior Court yesterday for a bail hearing.

Teregeyo faces charges of assault with a dangerous weapon, assault and battery, and disturbing the peace, while Mengar faces assault and battery and disturbing the peace.

Bail was set at \$625 cash for Teregeyo and \$125 cash for Mengar. Preliminary hearing is on Dec. 21 at 9am.

The victim's mother, however, asked the Office of the Attorney General yesterday to dismiss the charges against the two.

The police report did not mention the victim's age.

Detective Simon T. Manacop stated in his report that a domestic disturbance incident was reported to the

Department of Public Safety on Friday at 11:25am and a police officer responded to a residence in Dandan.

The victim, who was crying, told the officer that she was choked and hit on the face with a bamboo rake. She identified the persons who beat her up as her aunts, Teregeyo and Mengar.

The officer noticed bruises on the victim's neck.

The victim told police that Teregeyo had accused her of stealing money from them and was yelling at her. When the victim told Teregeyo to shut up, Teregeyo took a bamboo rake outside the house and allegedly hit her in the face. Teregeyo also allegedly grabbed the victim by the hair, threw her down the kitchen floor, then choked her.

Mengar allegedly joined by kicking the victim on the right side of the chest and back.

The victim's grandmother came and stopped the two from beating up their niece. (Ferdie de la Torre)

IMMIGRATION LAW

Bruce L. Mailman
Maya B. Kara

Available services include

- U.S. Permanent Residence (Green Card)
- U.S. Naturalization/Citizenship
- Employment Based U.S. Visas (H1B, H2B, L1, EB1, E1, E2, and others)
- Status Clarification

Call for Appointment
(670) 233-0081

Law Offices of Mailman & Kara, LLC
Corner of Beach Road and Cpl.
Derence Jack R., Garapan, Saipan

UNWRAP the possibilities

Christmas Sale!



MOTOROLA XOOM™
\$499†

Experience the World's first device powered by Android 3.0 Honeycomb OS that was designed specifically for tablets. The Motorola Xoom! Sporting a Dual Core Processor that provides enough power to run a desktop in laptop computer. 10.1 inches of Wide Screen HD Display, and a Front and Rear facing camera that takes HD quality photos and videos, the Motorola Xoom is no doubt the world's most powerful tablet device today!



GET A FREE MiFi® 2200
with the purchase of any tablet.*



BlackBerry PlayBook™
\$399†

Fire up the Wi-Fi and get ready for a totally uncompromising web experience, complete with Adobe® Flash® 10.1 and HTML5 support for those rich graphics and videos. Powered by a 1GHz dual-core processor and 1GB RAM, the PlayBook will help you multitask and manage apps on a single screen. Plus, the 3MP HD forward-facing camera, 5MP HD rear-facing camera and 1080p HD video output are sure to take your multimedia capabilities to the next level.



Samsung GALAXY Tab™ 10.1
\$399†

The Galaxy Tab 10.1 is a complete overhaul compared to the original 7 inch Galaxy Tab. The new 10.1 offers a larger 10.1 inch Hi-res touch screen display, pre-loaded with Android 3.1 Honeycomb OS, and claims to be the thinnest tablet in the world!



XPERIA™ PLAY
\$199†

This gaming phone sports dedicated gaming controls on a slide-out pad, a large screen, and a 2nd-generation Snapdragon processor. Other key features include 5-megapixel camera, front-facing camera, 3.5mm audio jack, mobile Wi-Fi hotspot, full browser with Adobe Flash, memory card slot, DLNA wireless media streaming.



CASIO G'zOne COMMANDO™
\$299†

This Android 2.2 FROYO CDMA smartphone is notable for its rugged, waterproof design. Other key features include compass, thermometer, pedometer, a high-resolution touch display, and extra-loud speaker. Rounding out the features are a 5-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi with mobile hotspot, EVDO 3G data, and memory card slot.



SANYO ZIO™
\$49‡ **PREPAID \$199**
INCLUDES \$10 LOAD

This Android smartphone is notable for its large, high-resolution display and 3G EVDO data. Other features include 3-megapixel camera, Wi-Fi, accelerometer, 3.5mm headphone jack, and memory card slot.



Samsung Showcase
\$199†

Part of Samsung's Galaxy S series, this high-end Android smartphone sports a huge 4-inch OLED display, 1.5 GHz processor, and 5-megapixel camera with LED flash and video capture. Other features include Bluetooth 2.0, Wi-Fi with DLNA streaming, and a 3.5mm audio jack.



htc EVO™ 3D
\$299†

This update to the EVO 4G adds 3D screen and camera, including video, plus a faster 3rd-generation dual-core Snapdragon processor. Other features include Android 2.3, HTC's Sense interface, a huge, high-resolution display, and HD video output to TV. Other features include Wi-Fi, memory card slot, and 3.5mm audio jack. The EVO 3D is surely a phone that will blow away the competition!

GIVE THE GIFT OF THE BEST NETWORK ON THE CNMI & GUAM

Saipan: 682-4ITE(4483) • Tinian: 433-0210 • Rota: 532-3599 • Guam: 671-922-4ITE (4483) • www.ite.net

* While supplies last. Some conditions apply. GSM units require 12-month term on Pocket Android Plan. † Requires MiFi service on a 24-month term. ‡ Requires Android 500 Plan on a 24-month term.

IT&E
Life in Motion

Senate president asks Cape Air for mid-week flights to Rota

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) has asked Cape Air to include mid-week flights to Rota, which has seen drastic drop in flights in recent period and crippling island tourism.

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Brilliant Star School's 7th Annual Holiday Bazaar raised a total of \$3,000 that will be used to provide tuition assistance to qualifying families and to improve the school's playground.

School principal Richard Sikkel said the annual event, held all day on Dec. 4 at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center, had an "amazing turnout," with the venue "filled to capac-

"The frequency of flights and the availability of seats to and from Rota have impaired the island's tourism economy...Accordingly, I am requesting Cape Air to include mid-week flights to Rota to improve travel to the island and improve its economy," Manglona said in a Dec.

9 letter to Cape Air/Continental Connection-Micronesia regional director Michael Walsh. Manglona said many travelers want to visit Rota mid-week but cannot afford to stay longer than two or three days. As Cape Air's current Rota flight schedule is limited to

Mondays and Fridays, this drastically affects travelers who plan for a short trip but are forced to stay for a longer period of time. Freedom Air, which also provides service to Rota, also started running fewer flights and smaller aircraft—from 39-seater to seven-seater—to the island in

late October. It also temporarily stopped flying to Rota on Mondays and Fridays. Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian) recently met with Cape Air's Walsh to discuss flights to Rota and Tinian. Manglona said despite the ail-

ing economy, he's hopeful that local and foreign visitors will continue to visit Rota and the CNMI. "I commend Cape Air for its continued business here in the CNMI and look forward to the use of nine-seater aircrafts to provide additional flights to and from the island of Rota," he said.

Annual holiday bazaar raises \$3K for Brilliant Star

ity with standing-room-only for the audience enjoying the many performances."

Performers included DoReMi, Saipan Music and Dance, tai-chi by Mei Demapan and Kevin Wang, Glushko's Academy, JJ-Rockstroh, Nate van Ee, Angel's International School of Dance, Keynotes School of Music, Manta Ray Band, and Li'l Hands. The performers, Sikkel said,

"drew quite a crowd who in turn managed to do some early holiday shopping with many local vendors and artists."

Vendors at the bazaar included Joe Weaver, Jack Hardy, Joe Kani, Greg Elliott, Finatimas Animas, Martin Castro, Island Jewelry's Jill Vanderkin, Anahata Healing's Kim Peterson, leaf paintings by Ernie David, Monika's Gallery, Jams by Ayorata's D.C. Revilla,

Leyah's Crafts by Tokie Mojica, Saipan Southern High School's Ceramics class, Kate Fuller's Fusion Design, Flower Pot Creations, Star Jewelry, Apple Coffee Shop, and Capitol Discount Mart. Sikkel said all vendors donated items, in addition to products donated by various local businesses for the bazaar's raffle. School parents also stepped it up this year with the food sales,

providing an array of healthy food choices that drew a lot of positive feedback. "The fact that Brilliant Star managed to have such a successful event during a tough economic time is a testament to the hard work of our parents and volunteers and the unique concept of this one-of-a-kind event for Saipan," Sikkel told *Saipan Tribune*. Bazaar sponsors included

Saipan Grand Hotel, Marianas Coffee, IT&E, Pacific Islands Club, Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan, Marianas Resort & Spa, Shenanigans, Tropical Blends Spa & Salon, DFS, Saipan Sunset Cruise, Morning Glory, Yoga Waves, Saipan Water & Ice, Rep. Ray Tebuteb, JC Marketing Corp., Micronesian Brokers, Multi-Purpose Center, Commonwealth Election Commission, Martha's Store, Nuat Thai Massage, Hyatt Regency Saipan, and Deep Sea Submarine.

Robert Tenorio Torres
Attorney at Law
Plata Drive, Whispering Palms (Chalan Kiya)
P.O. Box 503758
Saipan, MP 96950

Tel: (670) 234-7859
Fax: (670) 234-5749

Attorney for Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT
FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

MARIANAS PUBLIC LAND TRUST,
Plaintiff,

vs.

WILLIAM DLG. ANGUI
and JESSIE A. ANGUI,
Defendants.

THIRD NOTICE OF AUCTION and JUDICIAL SALE

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN, that under and by virtue of a judgment made and entered in the above titled action on the 23rd day of August, 2007, by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, to satisfy the amount found and adjudged due Plaintiff in the above titled action from Defendants, as prescribed in the judgment, the undersigned counsel or his designee will sell at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the 13th day of January, 2012 at 10 a.m., at the Marianas Public Land Trust Conference Room, Capitol Hill, Saipan, the premises and real estate, lying and being on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, described in said judgment, to wit:

Lot No. 011 G 1067, located in Kagman III, Saipan, containing an area of 841 square meters, more or less, as shown on the Division of Lands and Survey's Official Cadastral Plat No. 011 G 10 dated December 1, 1993 and recorded at the Commonwealth Recorder's Office as File No. 93-4178 on December 3, 1993.

Terms and Conditions of Sale.

1. Rights and duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the custom and usage and applicable laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales with reserve, the auctioneer or his designee shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale:
a) withdraw the property listed for sale in the public announcement before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted.
b) To adjourn the sale without notice at any time before any specific property is sold, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and
c) To reject any and all bids.

2. Bids. Tentative bids may be submitted in advance for any and all of the property listed in the notice. Such bids shall not be binding, except that the highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid for the property. Bids may be entered in person, in writing, or by telephone to Robert T. Torres, Attorney at Law, Plata Drive, Chalan Kiya, P.O. Box 503758, Saipan, MP 96950, Phone: 670-234-7859; Fax: 670-234-5749; Email: rttlaw@pticom.com.

3. Deposit and Payment. A deposit of ten percent (10%) of the purchase price must be paid on the day of the auction sale. The remaining balance will be due within ten days of the auction sale. All payments must be made by cash, cashier's check, or money order. Failure to make payment of the remaining balance within ten days will result in forfeiture by the buyer of the 10% deposit, and any and all of the buyer's rights, title and interest in any of the property will revert to MPLT.

4. Change of Terms. Auctioneer and MPLT reserve the right to change any of the terms of conduct an enforcement of sale by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof, and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause shall be binding on any buyer by constructive notice.

5. Inspection and No Warranty. Bidders are cautioned to inspect the title and property. The interests of the property are being sold "AS IS" and without warranty. Failure to inspect the real property will not constitute a ground for any claim, adjustment or rescission by any buyer.

DATED this 29th day of November, 2011.

/s/ Robert T. Torres, Auctioneer

Christmas recital highlights youthful talents of music school

Li'l Hands School of Music's "Christmas In Our Hearts" on Dec. 4 drew over 100 guests to the SandCastle of Hyatt Regency Saipan, made up mostly of family and friends of the 33 performers that took part in the yearly holiday recital of the former R.C. Sablan Music School.

The recital started off with piano solos performed by Li'l Hands' early to late beginner level students. The pieces ranged from Rojan Nathan De Jesus' *Ode to Joy*, to Maxine Rabago's *Santa Claus is Coming to Town*, to Karissa Quichocho's *Pen-Pen De Sarapen*. It was followed by more pi-

Thirty-three students of Li'l Hands Music School perform in "Christmas In Our Hearts" annual holiday recital last Dec. 4 at the SandCastle of Hyatt Regency Saipan.

SAIPAN TRIBUNE



ano solos and duets, among them Jan Matthew Millo's *Deck The Halls* and Kalea Lou Borja and Kyla Monique Cabrera's *Jolly Old St. Nicholas*. "Christmas In Our Hearts" was capped off by piano solos and duets performed by the school's early and late intermediate level students. These included Kelsey Conlon's *Jesus Above All Name*, Vickie Abalin's *Moon River*, and Abalin and Mary Grace Tiglao's Pachelbel's *Canon*. In between piano performances, Li'l Hands' Bulilits and Kiddos groups did song and dance numbers in colorful costumes.

Piano teacher Joyce Dimaun congratulated her pupils for the successful staging of the event. "It is with great pride and honor to see each student develop a promising talent, whether they learn to play a certain instrument, learn how to sing and dance, learn in their early years how to expand their horizons, and embrace music as part of their young lives," she said. She also thanked parents for nurturing and encouraging their children's musical talents. "We appreciate the parents for instilling in their children the significance and joy of seeing budding talent emerge from many hours of hard work and diligence, and for welcoming music into their families." The event's sponsors were 3Hi-Res Designs, Law Office of Ramon K. Quichocho, LLC, Taco Bell and KFC, Balloon Creations, Marianas Ice & Water Co., Marianas Business Plaza, Hyatt Regency Saipan, Pacific Postal and Western Union, and the Tan Siu Lin Foundation. (*Saipan Tribune*)

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-025
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE AND THE MULTI-PURPOSE CENTER ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, Third Floor, Office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_doc_multiurpose@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., Local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan Secretary of Public Works /s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Proc. & Supply /s/ Thelma B. Inos Director, Energy Div. /s/ Michael J. Ada CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-026
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS BUILDINGS ON TINIAN AND ROTA FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_tinian@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by Federal Law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan Secretary of Public Works /s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Proc. & Supply /s/ Thelma B. Inos Director, Energy Div. /s/ Michael J. Ada CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-027
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS OFFICES WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, Third Floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd Floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_dof@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan Secretary of Public Works /s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Proc. & Supply /s/ Thelma B. Inos Director, Energy Div. /s/ Michael J. Ada CNMI ARRA State Lead

Procurement And Supply
CNMI Government

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL

RFP NO.: RFP12-DPW/ED-028
SUBMISSION DATE: JANUARY 19, 2012 TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, DELIVERY AND COMMISSION OF AIR CONDITIONING SYSTEMS FOR VARIOUS FIRE STATIONS ON SAIPAN FOR THE DEPARTMENT OF PUBLIC WORKS, ENERGY DIVISION"

The complete Scope of Work for this project will be available on or after December 13, 2011 and may be picked-up at the Office of the CNMI ARRA State Lead, located at the Marianas Business Plaza, third floor, office #315 during regular working hours.

A mandatory pre-proposal conference will be held on January 04, 2012 at 10:00 a.m., local time, at the Department of Public Works main office conference room, 2nd floor, located in Middle Road, Saipan.

All questions regarding this project should be submitted in writing via email to acsystem_fire@recovery.gov.mp no later than 4:30 p.m., local time, December 28, 2011.

This is a federally funded project; as such, local preference is not available because its use is prohibited by federal law granting funding for this project.

/s/ Martin C. Sablan Secretary of Public Works /s/ Herman S. Sablan Director, Proc. & Supply /s/ Thelma B. Inos Director, Energy Div. /s/ Michael J. Ada CNMI ARRA State Lead

AG: Fitial has authority to extend austerity to federally funded posts

By **HAIDEE V. EUGENIO**
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham issued yesterday a legal opinion that the governor has the power to impose austerity on both locally and federally funded Executive Branch employees, and that the Legislature cannot—through the budget law—place limitations on the governor's power to impose austerity, modify, or rescind parts of the governor's austerity directive or prescribe its terms.

The five-page legal opinion says the governor possesses the discretionary power to expend public funds by virtue of his duty to see that CNMI laws are faithfully executed.

Buckingham said that portions of the 2012 budget law, Public Law 17-55, that purports to exempt certain Executive Branch employees from the governor's directive are "constitutionally invalid."

Interior Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta, at the same time, said he has not heard of any federal agency having concerns with the expenditure or non-expenditure of funds as a result of the CNMI government's austerity this year.

"I would expect the federal agencies, if they have a concern over the austerity measures that are affecting people carrying out their programs, that they would express that to the local government and request an exemption for those workers," Babauta told reporters yesterday afternoon.

He said in 2010, Interior asked the CNMI governor to exempt federally funded employees in the Brown Tree Snake Control Program from austerity. Babauta said they have not asked a similar request this year because the program in

the region is under review.

In 2010, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial directed Executive Branch employees' hours to be reduced by 16 hours every pay period. He included the austerity in the 2012 budget he submitted to lawmakers.

The Legislature generally concurred with the budget bill but inserted a provision imposing a number of limitations on reducing work hours.

For example, work hours could not be reduced by more than 16 hours per pay period, and that "any employee whose salary is

paid in full by federal funds shall be exempt from any work hour reduction or reduction in salary."

Despite this, Fitial issued a directive subjecting all executive departments and agencies to 16-hour work cuts per pay period, covering local and federally funded personnel. Only certain personnel at the departments of Public Safety and Corrections and the Emergency Management Office are exempted.

Questions and answers

Buckingham's Attorney General Opinion 2011-04 answered

two questions. The first one was, "Does the governor's authority to impose austerity on Executive Branch employees extend to employees in positions funded by the federal government?"

Buckingham's answer was "yes."

"The governor's authority to restrain expenditure by controlling the working hours of Executive Branch employees does not depend on the source of funds involved. The NMI Constitution vests the governor with the executive power to spend, or not

spend, Commonwealth funds. The origin of the funds has no bearing on the governor's constitutional authority," he said.

The second question was, "May the Legislature, through PL 17-55, place substantive limitations on the governor's power to impose austerity, modify or rescind parts of the governor's austerity directive, or prescribe specific terms to be included by the governor?"

The attorney general's response was "no."

He said the governor's discretionary exercise of his constitu-

tional powers pursuant to Article 3 is not subject to legislation.

Buckingham said the Legislature has the power to appropriate Commonwealth funds to a particular purpose, but does not have the authority to expend those funds.

"The Legislature may direct overall government employment, but it may not manage the staffing and resources of the Executive Branch. The Legislature may authorize expenditure for an executive position, but it may not command the governor to fill the position," he added.

ALAI Winter Camp Program

✓ Learn with Highly Qualified Teachers
✓ Play with awesome camp counselors
✓ Experience the best time while in a structured and well rounded environment.

Weekly Planner

Morning Classes include:
- exploration of Science, Social Studies and Math with focus on Reading Comprehension, The Writing Process and Verbal Expression

Afternoon Classes PE Classes
Mon-Field Day, Soccer, Capture the Flag, Ultimate Frisbee, etc.
Wed-Swimming at CK Beach Club
Thur-J&P Golf Academy with a Golf Pro Instructor
Tue/Fri-2 types of Dance Classes: Cultural and Hip-Hop
-Music Class: Acoustic, Classical and Contemporary
-Indone games: Sepak, Wheel of Fortune, etc.

Saturdays include:
-Morning Educational Trips: Museum Tour, Fire Station, American Memorial Park, etc.
-Afternoon Funtrips such as going to PIC Water Park, Jungle Wave, Jungle Trekking, Managaha and many more!

***Mon-Sat: FREE Waiting Room until 7 PM**

Activities:
Dance, Music, Indoor Games
Reading Workshop, Writer's Club, Speech & Drama Society
Golfing, Swimming, Field day
Educational Field Trip & Fun Field Trips

PUBLIC NOTICE
COMMONWEALTH LAW REVISION COMMISSION
(JUDICIAL BRANCH)
REGULAR MEETING
Thursday, December 15, 2011, 9:00 a.m.
Commonwealth Law Revision Commission Office
House of Justice/Guma Hustisia/Imwal Aweewe
Susupe, Saipan

AGENDA

- Preliminary Matters**
 - Call to Order and Roll Call
 - Introductions
 - Meeting Notice (Compliance with Open Govt. Act, 1 CMC § 9901 et seq.)
 - Final Approval of June 29, 2011 Meeting Minutes
- Executive Director's Report**
 - Staffing matters
 - FY '11-'12 Budget
 - Upcoming Products
 - Licensing Agreements
 - Sale Items
 - Sales Report
 - Non-revenue Items
- New Business**
 - Non-revenue Items
 - Future Products
- Other Business**
- Adjournment**

For further information or special accommodations, contact the Commission Office at 236-9820 or email albert.hicking@justice.gov.mp

中華料理 Sunny's Cafe 陽光餐厅
Tel: 235-6666

Starting December 16, 2011

Chinese Food and Traditional Island Favorites!

Wake up to Sunny's Breakfast
starting from \$1.00

Lunch & Dinner Special
\$3.50 for three choices + rice + soup

50% OFF
for Daily Dinner Specials from 8:30pm

We also have all our regular menu items.

Business Daily Hours: 7:00AM - 9:00PM
Chalan Piao, between MGM Garment & the old Labor & Immigration Office

AXE MURDERER TOURS

Holiday Special
Now through January 2, 2012

PADI Open Water Dive Course

Bring Your Friends for Group Classes ONLY \$325
4 or more students per class
Includes:
Personal PADI Materials, Free Gear Rental, 2 shore dives, 2 boat dives & Certification Card from PADI

OR

Private Lessons ONLY \$400
Plus Free Project Aware Certification
Includes:
Personal PADI Materials, Free Gear Rental, 2 shore dives, 2 boat dives, PADI Open Water Certification Card & PADI Project Aware Certification Card

Contact Us for More Details
(670) 939-7327 or (670) 287-1295
email: axemurderertours@gmail.com
<http://www.axemurderertours.com>

Mention this Ad and get \$5 off
Axe Murderer Tours Merchandise when you schedule a course or Discover Dive

Casting call for FOA's production of *Aida*

The Friends of the Arts, the CNMI's community theater group, will be performing the Elton John-Tim Rice Broadway musical *Aida* as its Valentine's Day show. Casting is currently ongoing. If you are interested in auditioning for the FOA's production of this musical, winner of four Tony Awards in 2000, come down to MHS Bldg. T Wednesday evening between 6pm and 8 pm. Singers/actors are being

cast for both singing/acting roles and for the chorus.

Performance dates will be Feb. 10, 11, 12, and 14, 2012. Rehearsals will start upon completion of casting.

Elton John and Tim Rice's *Aida* is a contemporary musical take on a grand classic tale of the timeless bond between an enslaved Nubian princess and an Egyptian soldier. As forbidden love blossoms between them, the young lov-

ers are forced to face death or part forever. Together, they set a shining example of true devotion that ultimately transcends the vast cultural differences between their warring nations, heralding a time of unprecedented peace and prosperity.

Aida, based on Giuseppe Verdi's opera of the same name, premiered on Broadway on March 23, 2000, running for 1,852 performances until Sept.

5, 2004 (34th longest running Broadway musical). The musical also ran from 2001-2003 and from 2006-2007 during two U.S. national tours, and also ran in international productions that performed in 20 different countries, and is still performed in international productions, regional theatres, colleges and high schools.

Join us for the audition and share your talent with the community. **(FOA)**



TSL SCHOLARS

Recipients of the Tan Siu Lin Foundation Scholarship Program are shown posing with NMC representatives and Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan. From far left is the father of Shane D. Golingo, who was not able to make it to the event, Severino P. Alforeza III, Jeri May C. Tudela, Maria Coleman from the NMC Finance Department, Stacey L. Demapan, NMC President Sharon Y. Hart, Jason Ray R. Palacios, Tan Holdings president Jerry Tan, Alvi Jane F. Manabat, Elvielyn C. Santos, Jesse C. Sablan, Susan Marchitti, NMC Financial Aid director Daisy Propst, and Kolesther Buenapacifico.

NMC



COMMUNITY BRIEFS

PTSA meeting today at OES

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians that there will be a PTSA meeting today, Dec. 13, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. **(PR)**

SSHS to issue mid-progress reports

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School, term mid-progress report is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, Dec. 15, from 3:30 to 6:30pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents and legal guardians. Students will be released at 1:30pm.

KagES PTSA meeting on Wednesday

Kagman Elementary School PTSA and parent summit will be on Wednesday, Dec. 14, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Important matters will be discussed. Please make time to attend the meeting. **(PR)**

Eagle Scout Court of Honor on Sunday

Calling all Eagle Scouts to sit in the eagle's nest for the Eagle Scout Court of Honor for candidates Harrison Smith and Don Cabrera. The Court of Honor will be held at the LDS church, north of McDonald's, on Sunday, Dec. 18, 2011, at 7pm. **(PR)**

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Dec. 13, 2000

NMC sees influx of Korean students

The Northern Marianas College is expecting the arrival of over 175 Korean international students to pursue short-term English language courses at the college beginning January 2001, following efforts by Hotel Riviera Saipan's Korean promoters to lure more foreign students to avail of the Northern Marianas' "Destination Education" experience. Hotel Riviera Saipan disclosed it has linked with four tour agencies in Korea to tap different elementary schools, colleges, and universities in four major Korean cities in this first ever CNMI promotional venture.

PSS to form fellowship network

The U.S. Department of Education has granted the Public School System additional funding to create a network of former, current and future Christa McAuliffe Fellowship recipients in efforts to establish an exclusive group dedicated toward the professional development of teachers. The Washington-based funding agency awards every year 10 Christa McAuliffe fellowships to PSS teachers worth \$2,500 each to support either classroom or staff development projects, including assessment studies which must be completed by the end of each school year.

Dec. 13, 2001

No overpayment of legal services, NMIRF insists

The Northern Mariana Islands Retirement Fund never overpaid Eason and Halsell in October because the Fund actually owed money to this law firm, representing unpaid billings incurred during the duration of its contract with the Fund. This was stressed by Fund legal counsel Kathleen Troy-Rucker in her response to an OPA query over an October payment made by the Fund to the law firm. Public Auditor Michael S. Sablan had asked acting Fund Administrator Takeo George to explain why the Fund paid the law firm in October, when an OPA audit had shown that the Fund overpaid the contractor \$9,586.33. The OPA audit was for billings issued by Eason and Halsell to the Fund covering the period from October 1, 1996 to February 29, 2000.

Live TV coverage of Senate sessions mullied

Live television coverage of Senate sessions? That idea is being mullied by some senators, not merely as a means to provide the public with up-to-the-minute news on what's happening at the Senate but also as a medium to inform people on the bills being tackled by the upper chamber. By knowing what's going on at the Senate, people will have enough time to submit comments and recommendations that may be taken into consideration when the upper chamber deliberates on pending measures, said Sen. Joaquin G. Adriano. Adriano, who will be the Senate Floor Leader in the 13th Legislature come January, queried reporters on the logistics needed should the Senate opt to have its session broadcasted live on television.

Dec. 13, 2002

Subway donates to local school

The company that operates the local Subway Restaurants has donated \$1,000 to the Saipan International School to fund educational programs within the school. Subway Investments Corp. said this gesture is just part of its continued support to the community and as a means to encourage education. In a statement, Subway said the Saipan International School and the company have been partners since October 2001 to provide healthy school lunches for the school's nearly 200 students. "We are extremely proud to be a part of this school and its continuing growth," said Marcos Fong, who is in charge of marketing for Subway.

'NMI garment industry southbound'

The newest Saipan apparel industry statistics reveal a continued downward trend in overall sales, spending by the factories and taxes paid to the Commonwealth government. According to the Saipan Garment Manufacturers Association, CNMI Customs Service Division reported an almost 15 percent drop in export sales from fiscal year 2001 to FY 2002, with a 22 percent drop in total sales from FY 1999 through FY 2002. A compilation of CNMI Department of Finance tax data from fiscal years 1998 to 2002, industry provided material and independent Industry Economic Impact Reports prepared by the certified public accounting firm of Burger & Comer, clearly chart the Saipan factories' slide since 1999, their peak year in activity.



Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Coastal Resources Management

Caller Box 10007, Springs Plaza
Middle Road, Saipan, MP 96950
Website: www.crm.gov.mp
Tel. (670) 664-8300 • Fax (670) 664-8315

COASTAL RESOURCES MANAGEMENT NOTICE OF MEETING OF THE CRM AGENCY OFFICIALS

Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 11, Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos through the Coastal Resources Management Office (CRMO) hereby give notice that a CRM Agency Officials Meeting will be held on Thursday, December 15, 2011, at 10:00 A.M. at the CRM Conference Room, Springs Plaza, Middle Road, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. PRELIMINARY MATTERS**
 - a) Call to Order
 - b) Roll Call
- II. PERMIT APPLICATION**

Galaide Estate Villas — CRM Permit no. SMS-2011-X-063

 - a. Permit application/summary by CRMO
 - b. Discussion by CRM Agencies/CRMO
 - c. Permit Status (CRMO/CRM Agencies)
- III. OTHER MATTERS**
- IV. ADJOURNMENT**

All interested persons are welcome to attend and to submit written or oral testimony on the above agenda items. (Note: Pursuant to Public Law 8-41, Section 13(a) (7) and Section 13(c), the Board may vote to meet in executive session.)

RITA C. CHONG - DELACRUZ
Administrator



PUBLIC NOTICE

Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9910(a), the Twelfth CNMI State Board of Education hereby gives notice that there will be a Special Board Meeting on Wednesday, December 14, 2011 at 10:00 a.m. at the BOE Conference Room, Susupe, Saipan.

AGENDA

- I. Preliminary**
 - 1) Call to Order
 - 2) Roll Call
 - 3) Adoption of Agenda
- II. Public Comments¹**
- III. Reports**
 - 1) Chair
 - 2) Board Committees
 - a) FPA
 - b) ISA
 - c) LIA
 - d) CIP
 - e) SEEIP
 - f) SCHOOL REFORM
 - g) AD HOC
 - 3) Student Representative
 - 4) Commissioner of Education
 - a) Financial Status Reports
 - (1) Federal
 - (2) Local
 - b) Head Start Program
 - c) Other matters
- IV. Unfinished Business**
- V. New Business**
 - 1) Establishment of PSS Foundation
 - 2) Strategic Priorities PLUS One Smart Goals
 - 3) Distance Education On-Line Proposal
 - 4) North Central Association Accreditation Proposal
 - 5) Ratification of LIA-PSS comments on HB 17-52
 - 6) Ratification of LIA-PSS comments on HB 17-226
 - 7) Amendment to Nutrition Assistance Program Grant 2011
 - 8) LDS Grant Application
- VI. Executive Session²**
 - 1) Legal Updates
 - 2) Personnel
 - 3) Other matters
- VII. Miscellaneous Matters**
- VIII. Discussion of Agenda for next Board meeting**
- IX. Adjournment**

¹ Pursuant to BOE Policy 0415, public comments are limited to 30 minutes. We ask that remarks be limited to 3 minutes each. Everyone is welcomed to submit written comments.

² Pursuant to 1 CMC § 9912, the Board may vote to meet in executive session at any time.

2011 Start Smart Seminar



Northern Marianas College president Sharon Hart addresses Marianas High School seniors about the advantages of attending community colleges during the 2011 Start Smart Seminar, an event made possible by the College Access Challenge Grant.

NMC



Seniors work together to untangle themselves in an activity during the seminar. The goal of the exercise was to have students get to know each other and build teamwork skills.

NMC



KSPN anchor Tina Sablan, center, discusses her college experiences during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" segment of the event. The discussion also brought forth questions from students about transitioning from high school to college life.

NMC



Students filling out evaluation forms of the event. The seminar was made possible with funding from the College Access Challenge Grant.

NMC



Shirlynn Perez, a planner for the Criminal Justice Planning Agency, second from left, answers a question posed by MHS seniors about how to prepare for college during the "I'm Graduating, Now What?" portion of the seminar.

NMC



Judge Joseph Camacho speaks to MHS seniors about and comments on the importance of a college education during the seminar. Camacho also remarked on his experiences at NMC.

NMC



NMC Office of Student Activities and Leadership administrative manager L.J. Castro hosts "The Financial Aid Feud" during the seminar. Castro challenged the students with financial aid questions.

NMC



MHS seniors pose with their NMC drawstring bags after filling out an evaluation of the seminar. The event was made possible with funding from the College Access Challenge Grant.

NMC

Opinion

Hafa Adai!

Saipan Tribune

CNMI'S FIRST DAILY NEWSPAPER
Volume XXI, Issue No. 295Published daily at 2/F JP Center,
Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, CNMI
Mailing Address: PMB 34, Box 10001, Saipan, MP 96950Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

AP The Associated Press

Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Poison pill for post offices

The U.S. Postal Service plan to delay first-class letters a full day, while eliminating thousands of mail handlers' jobs, will only make USPS services less appealing to customers.

Like the perennial proposals to eliminate Saturday mail delivery, this plan needs to be rethought. It's a short-term fix that will save \$3 billion, but not the needed long-range solution for the quasi-governmental agency that faces a \$14 billion loss this fiscal year.

Sure, there are dire challenges to traditional mail service posed by electronic communication—be it email, text messages, or online purchasing. But a relentless strategy of postal cutbacks risks triggering a downward spiral that could only hasten a feared bankruptcy for this vital agency, which receives no taxpayer help.

Certainly, the Postal Regulatory Commission's required review of plans to effectively end next-day service for first-class letters and close dozens of regional sorting facilities must be undertaken with a critical look at the broader impacts.

For 40 percent of Americans who still pay their bills by mail, slower mail service could well mean more late fees. For businesses that rightfully rely on the Postal Service to reach customers, an extra day certainly will pose logistical woes and added costs.

Postmaster General Patrick R. Donahoe is right that he needs help from Congress, but not by way of easing the six-day delivery mandate. More reasonable is a plan to let the agency claw back \$7 billion in overpayments made toward employee pensions.

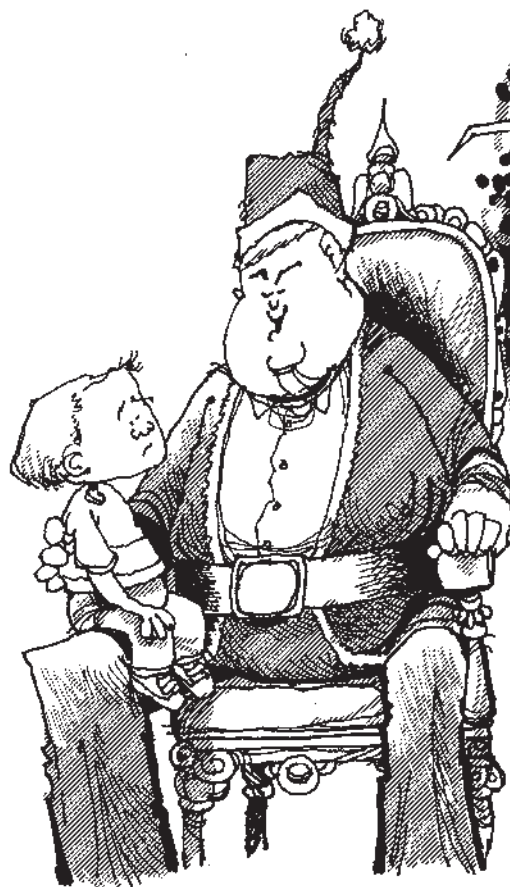
Donahoe's goal is to trim \$20 billion in expenses from the USPS by 2015, which would lead to profitability for the first time in recent years. That's even as the demand for first-class mail—the Postal Service's big moneymaker—is expected to shrink further.

Holding out on moving away from six-day delivery is the more sensible stance of U.S. Sen. Tom Carper, D-Del., who heads the Senate subcommittee that oversees the USPS. He suggests lawmakers should look for ways to help the Postal Service's bottom line by removing other restraints—such as permitting post offices to offer new products and services that could generate revenue.

With first-class rates set to rise by only a penny in January despite the agency's fiscal crisis, it's obvious that the federal law capping postal rate hikes to the level of inflation makes less and less sense, and should be eased.

For their part, postal customers must be willing to pay more than they are accustomed to in order to stave off cutbacks that would reduce first-class mail delivery standards to an unacceptable level.

© 2011, Philadelphia Inquirer

©2011
MRC.org/BMI
Dist. by King Features

SANTA NEWT

An early valedictory for 12.13.2031

I was not yet 18 when some 50 students across the nation spent two months at Jose Rizal's Dapitan *Mi Retiro* park in Zamboanga del Norte in southern Philippines as the first Rizal Youth Leadership Training Institute ran by the YMCA with U.S. Embassy discretionary funds glossed over with corporate fronts.

Several tarp-covered lattice bamboo frond-laced dwellings with army cots and Spartan beddings were set up to house participants, to awaken Filipino youth's self-consciousness beyond ego, to social sensibility, national passion, and worldwide communion.

A year earlier, I took Chemistry at Manila's PCU from a dedicated German spinster who taught the class to pre-nursing white caps heading Mary Johnston College of Nursing's way in blighted Tondo. Curious, I took a slice off my stomach mole and enlarged it under the microscope in the lab. Lo and behold, the image said: "Jaime Vergara, born Aug. 1, 1945, a gift of life into human history, to expire Dec. 13, 2011. Signed: God." That marked my segue into self-sufficiency, self-reliance, and self-confidence!

It was a turning point in my personal journey. I have since created a phased personal education curriculum in increments of 17 years. In the spring of '63, the national longevity figure for Filipinos was 66 for men and 68 for women. I am two years away from my terminus now, but 10 years ago, when I realized my kneecaps were going to outlast Article 12 of the CNMI Constitution, I extended my exit by a score! Those curious may e-mail for a copy of the curriculum.

I am celebrating a yearlong *liuliu* (66th) in the spirit of a Zhongguo metaphorical understanding that the time is come to forego the comfort of the familiar. From sunny Saipan and the tropical tranquility of the far-flung isles of the Marianas, I did exactly that. I am now in China's frozen land amidst alien Jurchen, Han, and Wayan folks settled in Shenyang, one of China's top 10 cities, whose culture before has been to us more a subject of academic inquiry than a living encounter in flesh and bone.

On MLK's assassination day, I was in a car accident, and the events made me face the facticity of finitude. Statistical probability pointed to longevity in my genes. (My Dad reached 94 when he called 10-04, and my mom at 91 graciously lives out the sunset of her years in Oahu, so I am on target.) I smoked for a decade, and medical evidence suggests a modest pegging of 2031 as the year my lungs will give out. Thus, my new expiry date is Dec. 13, 2031.

Now, what has this got to do with CUC's meter rate? Nothing. Really. Besides, if accused of pulling legs, particularly on the Chemistry story, I plead *mea culpa*. But if facts are fuzzy, the truth t'aint.

One of five strategic focus of my pedagogy is to expand the context of my students, on their identity and vocation. One graded activity in my Oral English class is a student's introduction delivered

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan TribuneJaime R. Vergara (jrvergara2031@aol.com) is a former PSS teacher and is currently writing from the campus of Shenyang Aerospace University in China.

extempo up front. One student whose expressed identity and vocation was passively latched to fate, stood in front of the class after 12 weeks and in the cadence of her ChEnglish, painted her existence including "getting married at 28, and having a baby at 30, but creating my job before then so that I will be productively self-employed, and my family has a means of support independent of other's efforts." Her context has been altered and behavior changed.

Whatever I may have contributed to the young lady's context (not much by my reckon), I quietly toasted it over a cold bottle of Tsingdao the following night, along with the prayer that politicians and everyone these days be aware of the context from which they make decisions.

To paraphrase the Bill Clinton campaign, "It's the context, stupid."

Dichotomies are never to be trusted in the detail, but they are sometimes helpful in the big picture. When training U.S. PCVs in the '80s, we characterized Eastern traditions as providing the mysticism of life's mysteries, and the Western mind, the objectivity of the scientific mode. The first relies on "chance," and the latter depends on "cause."

I do not think life is exclusive of one over the other. In fact, we've all been blessed with the lady luck of chance (e.g., a Benjamin on our path). Nor could we forget desiring to play NBA-type basketball but were limited by being born only five feet tall! Of life's chances and causes, choice is, nevertheless, an option, not only in changing the nature of our external situation when possible, but more importantly, in deciding how we relate to its givenness, caused or chanced. My student added choice to the repertoire that guides her destiny.

We face in two years our last and fifth phase from 68 to 85, as we hone the practices of humility in meekness, the elegance of simplicity in aging, and the graciousness of bedside candles in our dying.

One of my math whiz kids noticed that five phases at 17 years each only totals 85 but our timeline terminates in 2031 when we will be past 86.

Who said we were perfect?

EDITORIAL POLICY

Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The Saipan Tribune reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Working in the CNMI after Nov. 28

Now that the dust has mostly settled after the near panic of getting CW applications in by the Nov. 28 mailing deadline, it is time to take stock. What options remain to employers with respect to employing foreign workers? What opportunities remain to foreign workers who wish to remain and work in the CNMI? To understand where we are today and where we are going, it is useful to review the timeline of the federal takeover of immigration.

A review of federal takeover of immigration

The federal takeover of immigration is proceeding in specific phases as dictated by the Consolidated Natural Resources Act ("CNRA") (Public Law 110-229) as follows.

■ **Phase 1:** From May 8, 2008, when President George W. Bush signed the CRNA, to Nov. 28, 2009, the effective date of CNRA. The CNMI's existing immigration and labor scheme remained in place.

■ **Phase 2:** From Nov. 28, 2009, through Nov. 27, 2011, unexpired CNMI-issued entry permits became evidence of lawful status but no longer acted as visas. Umbrella permits, introduced by the CNMI during the last days before the CNRA took effect, became recognized by USCIS as a legitimate form of proof of lawful presence and work authorization. All forms of U.S. visa categories became available. Special CNMI-only visa categories implemented: E-2C for existing investors and CW for foreign workers and their dependents, although the CW category was implemented uncomfortably close to the mailing deadline. On the closing date of this phase, all remaining vestiges of CNMI immigration authority ended.

■ **Phase 3:** From Nov. 28, 2011, through Dec. 31, 2014, during which special CNMI-only forms of status, such as CW-1, CW-2 and E-2C, are available under U.S. immigration law. All forms of U.S. visa categories are available.

■ **Phase 4:** Jan. 1, 2015, and onward, during which all aspects of U.S. immigration law will apply to the CNMI. Only U.S. visa categories will be available. CNMI-only categories will be eliminated.

Phase 1 began on May 8, 2008, and ended on Nov. 28, 2009. Not much happened during this period; both governments were getting ready for the handover of immigration authority from the CNMI to the federal government. The main event of this phase was the Umbrella Permit Program, which extended the life of most CNMI-issued permits for a maximum of two years. On Nov. 28, 2009, we entered Phase 2 of the transition. After that date, the CNMI no longer had any authority to issue entry permits or regulate the presence of aliens in the Commonwealth. However, umbrella permits were recognized as legitimate proof of lawful presence and of work authorization. All umbrella permits expired on Nov. 27, 2011, and we entered the next phase of the transition on Nov. 28, 2011.

With the passing of the Nov. 28, 2011, deadline, we are now in Phase 3 of the transition period that began when President Bush signed the CNRA on May 8, 2008. CNMI-issued entry permits and umbrella permits became ineffective, but remain useful as proof for some applicants for adjustment of status to lawful permanent residence, to show that they originally entered the CNMI lawfully, prior to the U.S. immigration takeover. All aliens in the CNMI must have some form of status under U.S. immigration law. This can be family-based status ("green card") or employment-based status (e.g., CW, E-1, E-2, E-2C, L-1, H-1, EB-3, EB-5, F-1, or R-1). It may also be some form of parole issued by DHS.

In Phase 4, the E-2C category will be phased out. The CW category will also be phased out unless it is extended for up to a five-year period. Additional extensions, in five-year increments, may be authorized. With the possible exception of CW, the CNMI will be, for immigration purposes, exactly the same as the rest of the United States. An alien who wants to enter, live, or work in the CNMI will have to meet the same requirements and go through the same procedures as if he were entering the United States through New York, Los Angeles, or any other port of entry.

Where does this put employers?

The last few months have been a steep learning curve for all employers in the CNMI. They got a crash course in the various immigration categories available to their foreign employees. As anticipated, the largest number of applications was in the CW category, over 8,000 at the latest count. (We do not know if CW-2 dependents are included in this number.) There was a much smaller number of applications for highly skilled workers (H-1B) and senior executives and managers (L-1 and EB-1C), and treaty investors and traders (E-1 and E-2); we have no statistical information on the number

of these applications. And there was a significant number of parole applications, well over 3,000 we are told. How many of these will be granted and how many of the grantees will go on to obtain work authorization is yet to be seen.

The CW category and the parole plus EAD are short term, unstable solutions. The CW category will be phased out in three years unless extended. The prospects for extension are uncertain and very political. Paroles are granted for one or two years and are discretionary. Will they be continued if there is an administrative change in Washington, D.C.? If a conservative president is elected, unlikely. If President Obama is re-elected to office, most likely.

The higher level visas are both expensive and require extensive qualifications. Employers will continue to take advantage of them for highly educated and qualified executives, managers, and professionals. What about rank and file positions that are mostly filled by foreign workers? The CW program put pressure on employers to hire local workers. They had to attest, under penalty of perjury, that no qualified U.S. worker was available for the position. But because the preference requirement under the CRNA is mostly an honor system, it is unclear how many foreign workers were actually replaced by U.S. workers. It is also unclear of just how many qualified local workers are available to replace foreign workers. All of this will become clearer once statistical evidence becomes available.

Once the CW category is phased out, CNMI employers will have no choice; they will have to hire U.S. citizens, FSM citizens, green card holders, or individuals with any of the regular employment-based nonimmigrant visas. They will have to hire CNMI local workers and recruit from Guam and US. employers, if they plan to continue to do business in the CNMI after Dec. 31, 2014, now need to concentrate on two goals: (1) training U.S. workers and (2) gathering the political support to extend the CW program.

Where does this put foreign workers?

The position of foreign workers is the flip side of the position of employers. If you already have a U.S. immigrant status, such as a green card, you are secure. You are considered a U.S. worker for purposes of hiring the CNMI, and in the rest of the USA. If you are eligible for a green card, or other immigrant status, such as special immigrant religious worker, you should waste no time in getting one. It really is a priority if you wish to remain in the CNMI. If you have a non-immigrant status, such as E-1, E-2, L-1, H-1, F-1, or R-1, you can renew it in accordance with the rules governing the specific category.

If you have a CW status pending, and no other U.S. status is available to you, you should make alternate plans for after Dec. 31, 2014. CW may or not continue; you should explore your options in your home countries and in other places.

If you have parole, your stay is governed by the terms of your parole. You need work authorization, in addition to parole, to legally work in the CNMI. But be careful not to file your application for a work authorization ("EAD") before your parole is granted (or, in some cases, with your parole application). You cannot apply for EAD unless you already have some form of status; no status, no EAD. We have now seen many people who have filed for EADs without having any parole or other application pending. Please be aware that USCIS will accept your filing fee of \$380 and even take your biometrics and still deny the EAD application because there is no acceptable basis to justify the grant of parole. And remember: no refunds.

We understand that there are large numbers of people who do have parole applications pending. There are more people for whom parole has recently become available (IRs of U.S. citizens and "stateless"). USCIS posted instructions regarding this class of parole on its website on Dec. 9, 2011. See, <http://tinyurl.com/d79xcxn>. People who have pending parole applications based on these same criteria do not have to refile. Those who are eligible and have not yet filed are encouraged by USCIS to file before Jan. 31, 2012. People who file by that date will have their parole backdated to Nov. 28, 2011. People who file after that date will not and will therefore accrue unlawful presence. We will address the specifics of this form of parole in our next column.

So, for people in parole or pending parole status, our advice is the same as for CW: apply for long term U.S. immigration status if you are eligible; explore options away from the CNMI if you are not.

We anticipate an increase in enforcement actions by ICE. The removal procedure is not a pleasant prospect. It is emotionally draining on you and your family. If you hire a lawyer, it is financially draining. Although the Obama administration has spearheaded, and

IMMIGRATION FORUM

By **MAYA KARA** and **BRUCE MAILMAN**

Special to the Saipan Tribune



Maya Kara is a native of Hungary and comes to the practice of law by way of her interest in Asian history. Bruce Mailman is a native of Bakersfield, California and was a private investigator in California prior to becoming a lawyer. Both have lived and practiced law in the CNMI for over 20 years, Maya in government service and Bruce in private practice. They are married and are partners in the law firm of Mailman & Kara, LLC in Garapan, Saipan.

DHS has officially adopted, the policy of prosecutorial discretion (aka the "Morton memo"), which encourages prosecutors to limit removal to criminals and terrorists, you cannot rely on this as a defense. The policy is not binding on any given prosecutor or ICE field office. With some significant exceptions, field offices do not seem to abide by the policy. Time will tell how the Saipan Field Office will respond. None of the local lawyers I have spoken to who have raised this defense were successful in getting a removal dismissed on this ground. Another immigration lawyer has told us that this was true even in a case which the immigration judge suggested a favorable exercise of prosecutorial discretion; the prosecutor simply refused to discuss it. We have all seen numerous cases where ICE put in removal people whose only crime was being out of status.

DISCLAIMER: The name of this column is, and always has been, "Immigration Forum." We are not in any way connected with, and have had no communications with, visiting attorney Laguatan or his sponsors. We therefore were concerned to see the name of our column on a large banner behind the attorney visiting from San Francisco, in a photo of the public meeting he conducted last week. We have always heard that imitation is the sincerest form of flattery but in this case we are not flattered, given the comments attorney Laguatan has made about CNMI-based attorneys without, so far as we know, meeting any of us. We strongly support public education—that's why we write this column—but we think our visitor should make up a name of his own.

The information contained in this column is intended as general information only, and not as individual legal advice. Readers should obtain professional legal advice before taking action with respect to their individual situations. Readers may submit questions regarding federalization or immigration issues to the authors by email to lexmarianas@pticom.com. Readers may also e-mail written questions through the Saipan Tribune at editor@saipantribune.com.

Letter to the Editor

How's your driving?

I am writing this because I am very concerned about the ridiculous driving of tour vans and hotel vans. I have nothing against them. It's just that every time I see these vans heading south passing through Koblerville and making that right turn, either heading to Coral Ocean Point or the airport, the driver of that vehicle seem to forget that the main road they're taking is considered a residential area. They really need to watch their furious speed limit and give their right turn signal before turning right to COP. I hope their excuse is not because they're in a hurry and need to meet a certain time line. If that is the case, plan ahead.






These drivers are just taking advantage but I hope they could slow down, watch their speed, signal and also watch for pedestrians. I was almost a victim. I did my checks by watching left and right but here comes a van roaring as if it's being chased by the police. I have nothing against any of these companies; I only ask if you could watch your speed limit and please signal. If not, I guess you all need to put the "How Is My Driving?" sticker in the back of the vans and a direct number to report the complaint. Or better yet, get a refresher course on safe driving.

John Arriola
Koblerville, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY
				
Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers. East winds 15 to 20 mph.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°	▲ 87° ▼ 76°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲ 86 ▼ 77
Yap	Showers	▲ 87 ▼ 77
Chuuk	Thunderstorms	▲ 85 ▼ 80
Pohnpei	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Kosrae	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 78
Majuro	Showers	▲ 85 ▼ 79

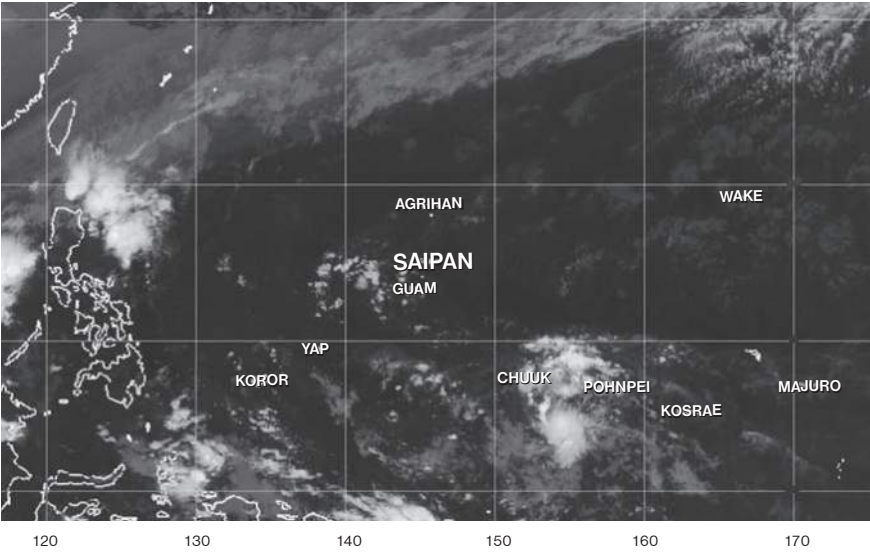
Around The Globe

Auckland	Showers	▲ 69 ▼ 64
Beijing	Sunny	▲ 32 ▼ 18
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲ 68 ▼ 60
Honolulu	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 81 ▼ 71
London	Rain	▲ 50 ▼ 42
Los Angeles	Showers	▲ 61 ▼ 42
Manila	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▼ 76
Melbourne	Partly Cloudy	▲ 65 ▼ 52
Miami	Mostly Sunny	▲ 79 ▼ 69
New York	Sunny	▲ 48 ▼ 33
Osaka	Partly Cloudy	▲ 57 ▼ 42
Paris	Rain	▲ 50 ▼ 44
Pusan	Partly Cloudy	▲ 54 ▼ 34
Rome	Mostly Sunny	▲ 60 ▼ 46
Salem	Partly Cloudy	▲ 39 ▼ 33
San Francisco	Partly Cloudy	▲ 58 ▼ 43
Seoul	Partly Cloudy	▲ 45 ▼ 25
Tokyo	Showers	▲ 51 ▼ 42
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲ 52 ▼ 37

Tides

Saipan Harbor			
3:12 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.4 Feet
10:22 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.9 Feet
3:50 PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.3 Feet
8:23 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, MONDAY, DECEMBER 12, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A stationary front extends southwestward from 25N143E to beyond 130E at 20N. Extensive cloud cover and scattered showers are found along and up to 500 miles northwest of this boundary including Iwo To Island. Low-level convergence is generating isolated thunderstorms well west of the Marianas within 130 miles of 14N136E. A near-equatorial trough extends eastward from a weak circulation centered southwest of Koror near 6N130E to end south of Chuuk near EQ150E. Scattered showers and a few thunderstorms are located between Koror and Yap and southwest of Chuuk within 80 miles of a line from 9N136E to EQ151E. A trade-wind disturbance is triggering scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms near Pohnpei and southeast of Chuuk between 1N and 7N from 151E to 160E.

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Wednesday	6:34 AM	5:48 PM
Thursday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Friday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM
Saturday	6:35 AM	5:49 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	8:10 PM	8:27 AM
Wednesday	9:05 PM	9:14 AM
Thursday	9:59 PM	9:58 AM
Friday	10:53 PM	10:41 AM
Saturday	10:53 PM	10:41 AM

GET YOUR PICTURES AND ANNOUNCEMENTS PUBLISHED—FOR FREE

The *Saipan Tribune* accepts for FREE publication the following:

- PICTURES**
 - ISLAND SNAPSHOTS Birthdays, baptisms, christenings, family gatherings, reunions, club activities, and other community-related events.
 - BIRTHDAY GREETINGS A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
 - BUSINESS Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
 - SAMUT SARI Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
 - TRAVELOGUE Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.
- ANNOUNCEMENTS**
 - COMMUNITY BRIEFS

- Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

REQUIREMENTS

- For pictures:**
- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
 - Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
 - Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
 - Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
 - For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.
- For announcements:**
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when),

- the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

HOW TO SUBMIT

- E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com or jayvee_vallejera@saipantribune.com.
- Fax: (670) 235-3740
- Mail: PMB 34, P.O. Box 10001, Saipan, CNMI 96950
- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

POLICY

- The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to accept or reject a contribution for publication; the right to edit all contributions, the date of publication, size of the picture, and page placement; and the right to publish contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats.
- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

NEWS DESK For news tips, corrections and requests for news coverage, call (670) 235-NEWS (6397), 235-2440, fax 235,3740. E-mail: editor@saipantribune.com. Website:www.saipantribune.com.

CUSTOMER SERVICE For inquiries, purchase of back issues and complaints, call (670) 235-8747, 235-2440, fax 235-3740.

SUBSCRIPTION Published Monday to Saturday, *Saipan Tribune* offers door-to-door on-island delivery at an annual rate of \$160. For additional subscription information, call (670) 235-8747 or 235-2769, or fax 235-3740.

ADVERTISING For inquiries contact (670) 235-2769. E-mail: sales@saipantribune.com

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 6, 2011

DEPARTURES	ARRIVALS
GUAM (GUM)-ROTA (ROP) C05062 2:10am 2:40am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-GUAM (GUM) C05064 5:15am 5:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN (SPN)-ROTA (ROP) C05064 4:15am 4:50am 1, 5	ROTA (ROP)-SAIPAN (SPN) C05062 3:10am 3:45am 1, 5
SAIPAN-GUAM (GUM) C05070 4:15am 5:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05070 4:35am 5:25am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05068 8:25am 9:15am Daily C05074 12:10pm 1:00pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05076 3:10pm 4:00pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 6:50pm 7:40pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05078 7:00pm 7:50pm 3, 6 C05072 9:55pm 10:45pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05072 10:05pm 10:55pm 3, 6	GUAM (GUM)-SAIPAN C05062 2:10am 3:45am 1, 5 via ROP C05069 2:45am 3:35am 2, 3, 4, 6, 7 C05071 7:00am 7:50am Daily C05073 10:05am 10:55am 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05075 1:40pm 2:30pm 1, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:30pm 6:20pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05077 5:40pm 6:30pm 3, 6 C05079 8:35pm 9:25pm 1, 2, 4, 5, 7 C05079 8:45pm 9:35pm 3, 6
SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT) DL287 6:00am 8:35am Daily DL297 4:35pm 7:20pm Daily	NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN DL298 10:25am 3:00pm Daily DL288 8:40pm 1:15am+1 Daily
SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN) OZ606 2:10am 6:00am 1 OZ606 2:40am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 OZ604 3:20pm 7:10pm Daily	SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN OZ603 9:00am 2:20pm Daily OZ605 7:40pm 1:00am+1 7 OZ605 8:10pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6
SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS) OZ608 3:35am 7:05am 4, 7	BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN OZ607 9:00pm 2:20am+1 3, 6
SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN) 3U8646 4:20am 7:30am 2, 6	GUANGZHOU (CAN)-SAIPAN 3U8645 7:40pm 3:00am+1 1, 5
SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG) 3U8648 6:10am 8:40am 1, 4, 5, 7	SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN 3U8647 10:40pm 5:00am+1 3, 4, 6, 7
SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL) OZ606/701 2:10am 11:15am 1 via ICN OZ606/701 2:40am 11:15am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05070/191 4:35am 9:45am 3, 6 via GUM DL287/173 6:00am 10:25pm Daily via NRT C05068/183 8:25am 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05068/183 8:25am 9:40pm 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:25pm 2, 5 via GUM C05076/183 3:10pm 9:40pm 1, 4, 7 via GUM C05076/193 3:10pm 11:00pm 2, 5 via GUM-Palau OZ604/703 3:20pm 11:00pm Daily via ICN C05072/PR111 9:55pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C05072/PR111 10:05pm 7:50am+1 3, 6 via GUM	MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN OZ704/603 12:10am 2:20pm Daily via ICN DL172/288 8:00am 1:15am+1 Daily via NRT C0190/5077 10:55am 6:30pm 3, 6 via GUM C0190/5079 10:55am 9:35pm 3, 6 via GUM OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ702/605 12:30pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN PR110/C05071 10:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5, 7 via GUM C0192/5071 10:25pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM-Palau C0184/5071 11:10pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 4, 6, 7 via GUM C0184/5071 11:59pm 7:50am+1 2, 5 via GUM
SAIPAN-HONG KONG (HKG) OZ606/721 2:10am 12:00pm 1 via ICN OZ606/721 2:40am 12:00pm 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN C05076/179 3:10pm 10:25pm 1, 5 via GUM OZ604/723 3:20pm 10:30pm Daily via ICN OZ604/749 3:20pm 11:00pm 1, 3, 5, 7 via ICN	HONG KONG (HKG)-SAIPAN OZ724/603 12:30am 2:20pm Daily via ICN OZ750/603 1:10am 2:20pm 1, 2, 4, 6 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:00am+1 7 via ICN OZ722/605 1:15pm 1:30am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN C0180/5071 11:15pm 7:50am+1 1, 5 via GUM
LEGEND: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); 5K: FlyGuam; 3U: Sichuan Airlines; CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana	
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The <i>Saipan Tribune</i> is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)	

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency	Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam-Rota				FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily	FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan				FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily	FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
Guam-Rota				FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily	FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Rota-Saipan							
FRE 1750	17:50	18:20	Daily	Tinian-Saipan			
Saipan-Rota				FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily	FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily	FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
Saipan-Rota				FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily	FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
Rota-Guam				FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 400				FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
Saipan-Tinian				FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily	FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily	FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily	FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily	FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily				
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily				



NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

Business

670 Rock Steady Shop moves to new site in Gualo Rai

By **CLARISSA V. DAVID**
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

670 Rock Steady Shop, the leading apparel store that's proudly home-grown, has moved to a new and bigger location, giving its customers a spacious and more comfortable place to shop for their clothing needs.

From its humble beginnings with only four shirt designs at its previous 780-square-foot location, 670 Rock Steady Shop now carries over 500 designs at its larger 2,500-square-foot store site at the Gualo Rai Plaza, next to the Northern Marianas Protection and Advocacy Systems, Inc. or NMPASI.

670 Rock Steady Shop, which revolutionized the local clothing scene, features nine brands by local artists: Magas and Stressfree by Frankie Cabrera; Poksu and Marianas Built by Angel Demapan; Solid and Pongai by Elen Del Rosario; Is. Brand, Balas, and Marianas Wear by Jesse Tudela; Atdit by Eric Palacios; Lakas Tama by Ron Mostales; Island Rebel by Dan and Theresa Taylor Worswick; Green Minded by Carlo Quezon; and Konflikt by Norman Del Rosario.

The shop is owned and managed by husband-and-wife

tandem Frankie and May Ann Cabrera.

"This is the people's shop because there's so much people involved in the business. We have our own brands and we have other vendors that also sell their brands," said Frankie in an interview at the new location.

According to Frankie, it took them about a year to find the perfect location for their shirt retail and printing business.

"We always wanted our printing business to be alongside the shop so we can provide our clientele with customized shirts," Frankie said. "We wanted a place where we can promote our passion, our love for art. It's a good business because it shows our commitment to our people."

Frankie, who previously worked as a social worker, said his passion for art pulled him away from his career in psychology. In 2007, he began designing for Magas and Stressfree CNMI brands.

For their business to thrive amid the economic downturn on the islands is a big accomplishment, according to Frankie. "I feel very blessed and very honored to promote my homeland with my love for art. It's very important to see that I can do



CLARISSA V. DAVID

Brand owners and designers of merchandise at the 670 Rock Steady Shop pose for a group photo at their new location next to NMPASI at the Gualo Rai Plaza last Thursday. From left to right: Angel Demapan of Poksu and Marianas Built; Carlo Quezon of Green Minded; Eric Palacios of Atdit, Elen Del Rosario of Solid and Pongai; Daniel and Theresa Taylor Worswick of Island Rebel; Jesse Tudela of Is. Brand, Balas, and Marianas Wear; Rock Steady Shop co-owner and manager May Cabrera; Ron Mostales of Lakas Tama; and Rock Steady Shop owner and Magas and Stressfree designer Frankie Cabrera.

what I love and promote the islands at the same time. I just feel fortunate to do that."

With about half of 670 Rock Steady Shop's clientele base islanders who have moved to the mainland and other parts of the globe, Frankie said they are now working on setting up their online shop. "We've already laid the foundation, which is this location."

Eric Palacios, who teaches at

Hopwood Jr. High School, began designing in 2006 when he was still in Hawaii and has done designs for many government agencies and organizations. These days, when he's not in the classroom, Palacios designs for his own brand, Atdit, an expression in Chamorro which means "too much of everything—looks, attitude, lifestyle."

"I think moving to our new

location will really help the business more. It reminds me of Ala Moana and Pearlridge malls in Hawaii. It's very promising and I'm pretty sure a lot of people are going to be amazed," said Palacios.

Husband-and-wife duo Daniel and Theresa Taylor Worswick, on the other hand, started doing designs for their own family. Now they have designs

for men's, women's, and children's apparel under their very own brand, Island Rebel.

"I'm actually pretty satisfied with our new location. It's bigger so it's better so we can accommodate a lot of our merchandise, from shirts and polo shirts to board shorts and hats," said Theresa.

Daniel said that designing for Island Rebel is "not really about the money but the passion for art." "Wear it with pride. Wear it because you want to, because you're an islander," he said.

Christmas sale

Besides its new location, 670 Rock Steady Shop customers can also look forward to the store's Christmas Smash Sale, which started on Dec. 2 and will last through the holidays.

The store offers 10- to 25-percent off on shirts, jackets and hoodies, hats, stickers, bags, sunglasses, shell necklaces, and other accessories.

Visit 670 Rock Steady Shop at their new location next to NMPASI at Gualo Rai Plaza. They are open Monday to Thursday from 9am to 7pm, Friday from 9pm to 8pm, Saturday from 11am to 8pm, and Sunday from 11am to 5pm. For more information, call 233-2677.

Public retirement ages come under greater scrutiny

COLUMBUS, Ohio (AP)—After nearly 40 years in public education, Patrick Godwin spends his retirement days running a horse farm east of Sacramento, Calif., with his daughter.

His departure from the workaday world is likely to be long and relatively free of financial concerns, after he retired last July at age 59 with a pension paying \$174,308 a year for the rest of his life.

Such guaranteed pensions for

relatively youthful government retirees—paid in similar fashion to millions nationwide—are contributing to nationwide friction with the public sector workers. They have access to attractive defined-benefit pensions and retiree health care coverage that most private sector workers no longer do.

Experts say eligible retirement ages have fallen over the past two decades for many reasons, including contract agreements between

states and government labor unions that lowered retirement ages in lieu of raising pay.

With Americans increasingly likely to live well into their 80s, critics question whether paying lifetime pensions to retirees from age 55 or 60 is financially sustainable. An Associated Press survey earlier this year found the 50 states have a combined \$690 billion in unfunded pension liabilities and \$418 billion in retiree health care obligations.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Lowe's pulls ads from TV show about US Muslims

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A decision by retail giant Lowe's Home Improvement to pull ads from a reality show about American Muslims following protests from an evangelical Christian group has sparked criticism and calls for a boycott against the chain. The retailer stopped advertising on TLC's "All-American Muslim" after a conservative group known as the Florida Family Association complained, saying the program was "propaganda that riskily hides the Islamic agenda's clear and present danger to American liberties and traditional values." The show premiered last month and chronicles the lives of five families from Dearborn, Mich., a Detroit suburb with a large Muslim and Arab-American population.

US online holiday sales up 15 percent to \$24.6B

NEW YORK (AP)—U.S. online sales in the holiday season to date are up 15 percent to \$24.6 billion, according to comScore. The research firm

said Sunday sales on six individual days during the first 39 days of the November-to-December shopping season have exceeded \$1 billion, led by Cyber Monday, the Monday after Thanksgiving, when sales hit \$1.25 billion. Sales in the most recent week ended Dec. 9 rose 15 percent to \$5.9 billion, the Reston, Va., company said.

Passenger advocate sought for US airports

ALBANY, N.Y. (AP)—Two New York lawmakers have called for a passenger advocate at airports to immediately act on complaints by passengers over security screenings. U.S. Sen. Charles Schumer and state Sen. Michael Gianaris of Queens want the Transportation Security Administration to create the position at all airports. The proposal to be released Sunday was prompted by an elderly woman's recent claims that she was strip searched by security officials at Kennedy Airport, which the TSA denies, saying it doesn't conduct strip searches. Others have since made similar claims. The TSA said Saturday that it is planning its own advocacy service.

After euro deal, investors brace for big moves

NEW YORK (AP)—Europe's fiscal pact may save the euro from collapse and stave off worldwide financial panic. But the concerns of many investors are more personal: Will it lift

my flagging 401(k)?

The answer from the stock market on Friday was hopeful. As a summit of European leaders concluded with an agreement to deal with their debt cri-

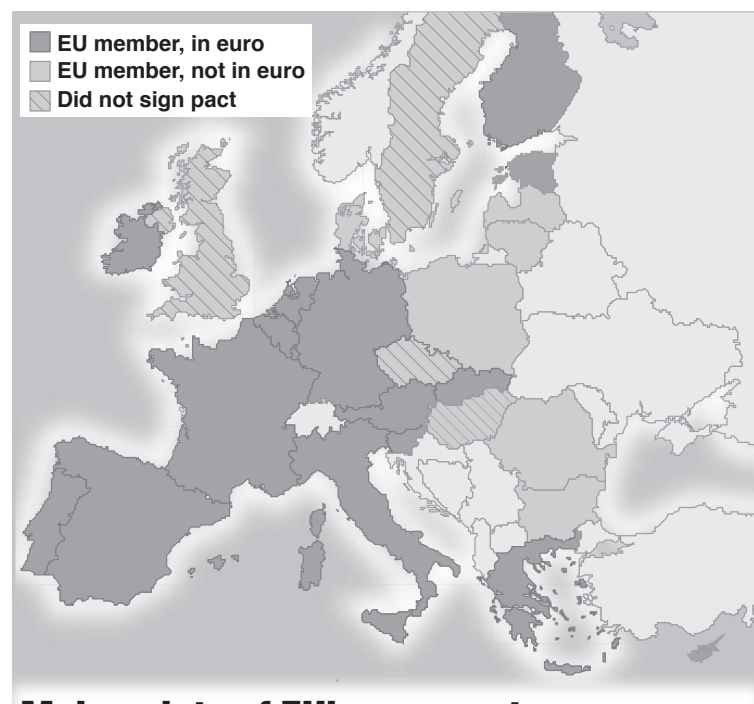
sis, the Standard & Poor's 500 index rose 1.7 percent, capping a second straight week of gains.

Then again, stocks have rallied after other summits—more than a dozen in two years—only to fall again. And the reaction from even the optimists isn't particularly reassuring.

Hank Smith, chief investment officer of Haverford Investments, says stocks could rise "sharply and quickly"—but only if there's more "good news" from Europe. And that assumes you agree that Friday's deal was good at all.

In that deal, all 17 countries that use the euro agreed to allow a central European authority to oversee their future budgets. They also agreed to automatic penalties if they spend too much.

But the deal won't help cut debt today, which in Italy, Greece and Spain has driven government borrowing costs close to levels considered unsustainable. All eyes are now on the European Central Bank, and whether it's willing to buy enough national bonds from those countries to keep interest rates down.



Main points of EU's new pact

Main measures in a new fiscal compact agreed to by 23 EU states, including all that use the euro, in an effort to solve the current debt crisis:

- **Keep national budget deficits** below 0.5 percent of GDP
- **Enact automatic penalties** for those who exceed 3 percent deficit ceiling
- **Report in advance** how much debt they plan to take on through bond sales
- **European Stability Mechanism (ESM)**, the eurozone's new, permanent bailout fund run by governments, will take over from the current rescue fund in July 2012, a year ahead of schedule
- **Eurozone and other EU nations** will give as much as 200 billion euros (\$268 billion) to the IMF to help debt-ridden eurozone members

© 2011 MCT
Source: European Central Bank, AP, BBC
Graphic: Pat Carr

Nation

Obama: Core philosophy of GOP candidates identical

WASHINGTON (AP)—In making the case for his re-election, President Barack Obama is arguing that it doesn't matter who the Republicans nominate to run against him because the core philosophy of the GOP candidates is the same and will stand in sharp relief with his own.

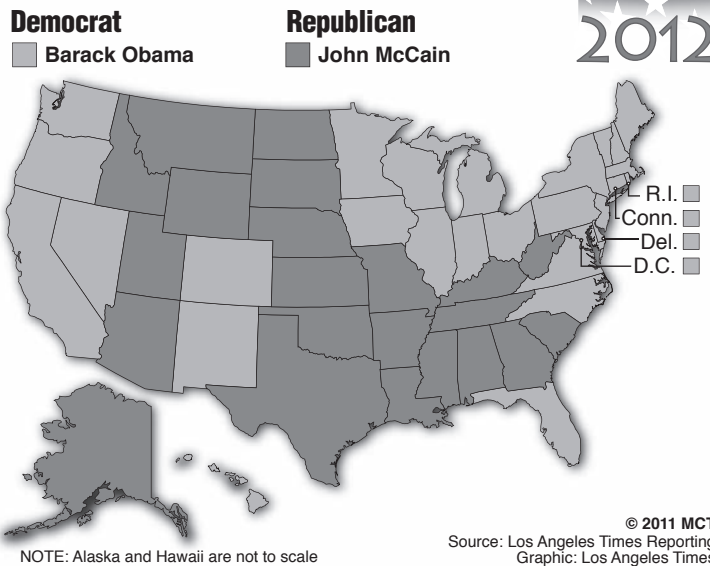
The president laid out an argument for a second term in a wide ranging interview on CBS' "60 Minutes" that aired Sunday, bluntly saying that if voters believe in the Republican agenda of lower taxes, including for the wealthy, and weaker regulations then he will lose.

"I don't think that's where the American people are going to go," he added, "because I don't think the American people believe that based on what they've seen before, that's going to work."

For some time, Democrats

Can Obama do it again?

2008 U.S. presidential election results, by state:



and Obama allies have been anticipating that former Massachusetts Gov. Mitt Romney will ultimately win the Re-

publican nomination. But with former House Speaker Newt Gingrich atop many polls now, Democrats have begun to train

their fire on him.

Obama argued that the two Republicans represent the same fundamental set of beliefs.

"The contrast in visions between where I want to take the country and what ... where they say they want to take the country is going to be stark," he said. "And the American people are going to have a good choice and it's going to be a good debate."

He rejected questioner Steve Kroft's suggestion that the public was judging him on his performance as president. "I'm be-

ing judged against the ideal," he said. "Joe Biden has a good expression. He says, 'Don't judge me against the Almighty, judge me against the alternative.'"

Obama predicted the fight to the Republican nomination won't be resolved quickly. "I think that they will be going at it for a while," he said.

He described both of the top GOP candidates, Newt Gingrich and Mitt Romney, as political fixtures.

Of Gingrich he said: "He's somebody who's been around a

long time, and is good on TV, is good in debates."

"But Mitt Romney has shown himself to be somebody who's ... who's good at politics, as well," he said. "He's had a lot of practice at it."

Obama is counting on voters giving him credit for avoiding a second Great Depression, bailing out the auto industry and passing a signature health care law even while acknowledging that the public is hardly satisfied with the direction of the country.

Romney doesn't disavow \$10,000 bet

HUDSON, N.H. (AP)—Democrats and Republicans alike are accusing Mitt Romney of being out of touch after he said during this weekend's debate that he would make a \$10,000 bet with Rick Perry even as millions of Americans struggle to make ends meet in a troubled economy.

Romney didn't back away from the comment Sunday—but says he's been reminded he's not a good gambler.

"After the debate was over, Ann came up and gave me a kiss," Romney said, referring to his wife. "And she said, 'there are a lot of things you do well. Betting isn't one of them.'"

Romney's bet—for a sum that represents more than two months' salary for Americans with mid-range incomes—has ignited a discussion about whether Romney, a wealthy businessman whose worth is estimated at more than \$200

million, is out of step with the challenges facing the millions of struggling or unemployed Americans who are having trouble providing for their families in an ailing economy.

"I would suggest to you that \$10,000 is pocket change for Mitt," said Perry, the Texas governor, who was campaigning in Iowa on Sunday. "Having an extra \$10,000 to throw down on a bet seems very out of the ordinary."

Democrats have seized on the remarks, eagerly pointing out just how much \$10,000 can buy. Democratic National Committee Chairwoman Debbie Wasserman Schultz called the remark "the most out-of-touch moment in any debate so far—offering to bet Rick Perry \$10,000 as casually as if it's something he does all the time," she said in a statement.

The remark is likely to become an issue in a general election campaign that

President Barack Obama has begun to define as a fundamental philosophical struggle between fighting for shared sacrifice and curtailing government to let people fend for themselves.

"Their philosophy is simple: We are better off when everyone is left to fend for themselves and play by their own rules," Obama said of the GOP at a major speech in Osawatimie, Kan., last week, invoking former President Teddy Roosevelt. "I'm here to say they are wrong."

Romney's campaign has spent most of the year focused on Obama instead of on his GOP rivals. And while former House Speaker Newt Gingrich has risen to the top of polls in several early states, Romney says he still believes he'll be the Republican nominee.

"I'm going to get the nomination," he told reporters here Sunday night.

Loss of plane peels back layer in US-Iran spying



AP

This photo released on Thursday, Dec. 8, 2011, by the Iranian Revolutionary Guards, claims to show the chief of the aerospace division of Iran's Revolutionary Guards, Gen. Amir Ali Hajizadeh, left, listening to an unidentified colonel as he points to US RQ-170 Sentinel drone which Tehran says its forces downed earlier this week.

WASHINGTON (AP)—The loss to Iran of the CIA's surveillance drone bristling with advanced spy technology is more than a propaganda coup and intelligence windfall for the Tehran government. The plane's capture has peeled back another layer of secrecy from expanding U.S. operations against Iran's nuclear and military programs.

Just as the Soviet Union's downing of the American U-2 spy plane revealed a hidden aspect of the Cold War, Iran's recovery of the drone has shed light on the espionage that is part of U.S.-Iran hostilities.

Iran has charged the U.S. or its allies with waging a campaign of cyberwarfare and sabotage, and of assassinating some Iranian scientists. The U.S. has accused the Iranian government of helping kill U.S. troops in Afghanistan and plotting to

murder the Saudi ambassador in Washington.

"It's beginning to look like there's a thinly-veiled, increasingly violent, global cloak-and-dagger game afoot," Thomas Donnelly, a former government official and military expert with the American Enterprise Institute, said at a Washington conference.

The covert operations in play are "much bigger than people appreciate," said Stephen Hadley, former national security adviser under President George W. Bush. "But the U.S. needs to be using everything it can."

Hadley said that if Iran continues to defy U.N. resolutions and doesn't curb its nuclear ambitions, the quiet conflict "will only get nastier."

Some historians and foreign policy experts compared the drone incident to the Soviet Union's 1960 downing of the

U-2 spy plane and pilot Francis Gary Powers. While those two countries sparred publicly on many issues, the world only occasionally glimpsed each side's secret operations.

"When I first heard about the drone, my first thought was thank goodness there wasn't a pilot in it," said Francis Gary Powers Jr., the son of the U-2 pilot and founder of the Cold War Museum.

"They were both on intelligence-gathering missions. They were both doing photo reconnaissance. They were both supporting the U.S. government's intelligence-gathering to find out intelligence about our adversaries," Powers said. The difference this time, Powers said, was that "there are no family members that have to be notified, there's no prisoner in a foreign country."

Northeast states cut heating aid to poor

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mary Power is 92 and worried about surviving another frigid New England winter because deep cuts in federal home heating assistance benefits mean she probably can't afford enough heating oil to stay warm.

She lives in a drafty trailer in Boston's West Roxbury neighborhood and gets by on \$11,148 a year in pension and Social Security benefits. Her heating aid help this year will drop from \$1,035 to \$685. With rising heating oil prices, it probably will cost her more than \$3,000 for enough oil to keep warm unless she turns her thermostat down to 60 degrees, as she plans.

"I will just have to crawl into bed with the covers over me and stay there," said Power, a widow who worked as a cashier and waitress until she was 80. "I will do what I have to do."

Thousands of poor people across the Northeast are bracing for a difficult winter with substantially less home heating aid coming from the fed-

eral government.

"They're playing Russian roulette with people's lives," said John Drew, who heads Action for Boston Community Development, Inc., which provides aid to low-income residents in Massachusetts.

The issue could flare just as New Hampshire votes in the Republican presidential primary.

Sen. Olympia Snowe, R-Maine, said she hopes the candidates will take up the region's heating aid crunch because it underscores how badly the country needs a comprehensive energy policy.

Several Northeast states already have reduced heating aid benefits to families as Congress considers cutting more than \$1 billion from last year's \$4.7 billion Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program that served nearly 9 million households.

Families in New England, where the winters are long and cold and people rely heavily on costly oil heat, are expected to be especially hard hit. Many poor and elderly people on fixed in-

comes struggle with rising heating bills that can run into thousands of dollars. That can force them to cut back on other necessities like food or medicine.

"The winter of 2011-12 could be memorable for the misery and suffering of thousands of frigid households," New Hampshire's Concord Monitor newspaper said in an editorial. "Heating oil prices are expected to hit record highs, and federal fuel assistance may reach a record low for recent years."

Higher home heating oil prices and more families seeking aid due to the sour economy are straining resources. There's a 10 percent surge in new applicants in Boston, Drew said.

"Our whole program could hit a rock soon," said Mark Wolfe of the National Energy Assistance Directors' Association.

Families can expect to pay, on average, about \$3,300 to heat a home with oil this winter in New England, Wolfe said. That's about \$500 more than last winter. About half of the region's homes use oil heat.

Asia

Afghan leader: Toll from attacks on Shiites now 80

KABUL, Afghanistan (AP)—The death toll from last week's rare sectarian attacks on Shiite Muslims in Afghanistan has risen to at least 80, the country's president said on Sunday. Hamid Karzai said during a speech in Kabul that the Dec. 6 bombings were carried out by people seeking to undermine peace and stability. An extremist group in neighboring Pakistan has claimed responsibility for the deadliest of the attacks, a suicide bombing that targeted Shiite crowds gathered around a shrine in Kabul.

Karzai did not say if the new toll included only those killed in that attack or whether it also included those killed in another blast on the same day targeting Shiites in the northern city of Mazar-i-Sharif. The earlier casualty toll was 56 killed and more than 160 wounded in Kabul, and four killed in Mazar-i-Sharif.

The Pakistani extremist group Lashkar-e-Jhangvi says it carried out the Kabul bombing, raising fears it was trying

to stoke Shiite-Sunni tensions in Afghanistan. The group is blamed for many attacks on Shiites in its own country.

Afghanistan, by contrast, has largely been spared the kind of sectarian violence in which civilians are targeted simply for their membership in a particular religious group. The Dec. 6 attacks suggest that at least some militant groups may have shifted tactics, taking aim at ethnic minorities such as the Hazara, who are largely Shiite and support the Afghan government and its Western partners.

On Saturday the U.S. ambassador to Afghanistan, Ryan Crocker, said it was unlikely the attack would open up a new sectarian front in the decade-long war.

"I do not see this turning into a sectarian conflict just looking at the reactions on the part of the Shia leadership calling for calm," he said.

Taliban spokesman Zabiullah Mujahid said Sunday that the Afghan insurgent group's

leadership had recently gathered in a shura, or council, to condemn the attacks. The Taliban also strongly condemned the two bombings on the day they took place.

Mujahid blamed the attacks on the "foreign occupation" of the country but was not specific. In an email sent to the media, he said the Taliban leadership called for the unity of Afghans and had ordered all its fighters to be on the alert and "prevent these kinds of attacks."

Islamabad is accused of tolerating some militant groups on its soil, but the government has emphatically denied that it has any links to Lashkar-e-Jhangvi, saying the group has been targeted by its military.

There was new violence in Afghanistan on Sunday with NATO announcing that a roadside bomb killed two of its service members in the east. It did not release details. The deaths bring to six the number of foreign soldiers killed in December, for a total of 522 since the

start of the year.

Karzai's speech touched on another major challenge facing Afghanistan, corruption. Specifically, he asked the United States to send home the former head of Afghanistan's central bank, Abdul Qadir Fitrat.

Afghanistan has issued an arrest warrant for Fitrat, who along with other officials at the central bank face allegations of failing to act on warnings about widespread corruption at Kabul Bank. The institution nearly collapsed last year because of mismanagement and questionable lending practices.

Fitrat fled to northern Virginia in June after claiming he received threats to his life in connection with the Kabul Bank scandal.

"The government of the United States should cooperate and hand him over to us. Bring Fitrat and hand him over to Afghanistan to make clear who is to blame. But our hand can't reach to America," Karzai said in the speech, made during an event marking U.N.-sponsored International Anti-corruption Day.

He said Fitrat held American citizenship.

Fitrat said at the time of the

Kabul Bank scandal that he and other central bank officials charged with overseeing the nation's financial system were being made scapegoats, while the Afghan government refused to charge politically connected individuals involved in making or receiving hundreds of millions of dollars in questionable loans.

Kabul Bank became a symbol of the country's deep-rooted corruption.

Afghanistan's financial system appears to be slowly recovering from the aftereffects of the near-collapse, which required a massive central bank bailout.



An Afghan child kisses a stone of his brother's grave in a cemetery in Kabul, Afghanistan, Friday, Dec. 9, 2011.

SKorea to allow 2 more Christmas trees near border

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea will allow Christians to light two more Christmas tree-shaped towers near the tense border with North Korea despite strong opposition from Pyongyang, an official said Sunday.

The South Korean government allowed a Christian group to light a massive steel Christmas tree near the border last year for the first time in seven years as tensions flared in the wake of two deadly attacks blamed on the North.

That tree will be lit again this month, while South Korea has also decided to allow other

Christian groups to light two other front-line Christmas trees, a Defense Ministry official said.

The decision is meant to help guarantee freedom of expression and religion, the official said on condition of anonymity, citing office policy.

Earlier on Sunday, North Korea's state-run Uriminzokkiri website said that lighting the first tree was a form of psychological warfare and would trigger an "unexpected consequence."

South Korea's military will bolster security near the three trees, located on the western, central and eastern portions of

the border, the Defense Ministry official said. The trees will stay lit for 15 days starting Dec. 23.

Animosity between the two Koreas still lingers in the aftermath of the North's alleged torpedoing of a South Korean warship and its artillery bombardment of a South Korean island that killed a total of 50 South Koreans last year. North Korea has denied responsibility in the warship sinking.

The two Koreas fought a devastating three-year war in the early 1950s. The war ended in an armistice, not a peace treaty, leaving the Korean peninsula technically in a state of war.

ASIAN BRIEFS

PM: Pakistan's president may be out for 2 weeks

ISLAMABAD (AP)—Pakistan's prime minister says that President Asif Ali Zardari may need two weeks to rest in Dubai following medical treatment there before he returns home. There has been much speculation over the political future of the 56-year-old Zardari since he flew to Dubai last week for treatment related to a heart condition. Prime Minister Yousuf Raza Gilani said in an interview with the BBC broadcast late Sunday that Zardari was "improving" but that he would likely need around two weeks of rest.

Chinese ship sinks off Philippines; 1 dead

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—A Chinese crew member has drowned and another is missing after they abandoned their sink-

ing cargo ship in the northern Philippines. Philippine coast guard officer Ernesto Renon says the 13 other crew members of the Changda 216, including 12 Chinese and an Indonesian, reached shore aboard two lifeboats early Sunday off Aparri town in Cagayan province. But the other two crew members' lifeboat overturned. One of the men drowned, while a search is under way for the other.

9 suspects, guard flee from 2 Philippine jails

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Philippine authorities are searching for three Chinese drug trafficking suspects who escaped from a Manila jail together with a guard. Video from a surveillance camera showed the guard unlocking the gate and leading the suspects out of Paranaque City Jail on Saturday. Bureau of Jail Management Director Rosendo Dial said

Monday that the guard and the suspects are armed and dangerous. He says police, the immigration bureau and coast guard are working to capture them.

SKorea: 1 dead after China captain stabs officers

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—A South Korean coast guard officer was killed and another injured Monday when they were stabbed by a Chinese captain whose boat was stopped for suspected illegal fishing in South Korean waters, officials said. Two Chinese boats were stopped in Yellow Sea waters rich in blue crabs, anchovies and croaker, but details of the fight were unclear, coast guard officials said. The officials, who declined to give their names because of the sensitivity of the situation, said the captain of one of the boats stabbed the South Korean officers.

India anti-corruption activist holds symbolic fast

NEW DELHI (AP)—A popular anti-corruption activist ramped up pressure on India's government for strong measures to fight graft by staging a brief symbolic fast Sunday in the capital.

Surrounded by thousands of flag-waving supporters, Anna Hazare held a seven-hour fast to demand sweeping legislation to end India's culture of corruption, in which bribes are paid for everything from health care to marriage certificates.

"My fast has begun. I will not speak much now," Hazare told his cheering fans gathered around the stage where he sat with about a dozen politicians discussing the bill. Later, he told the politicians they could take protests "to the streets" if the government rejects their suggestions in drafting a strong bill.

"The people are here with us," he said. "We will ensure that no jail in the country remains empty, such will be our campaign."

The governing Congress Party did not send a representative to join Hazare's on-stage political meeting, and instead it questioned the wisdom of debating legislation outside Parliament.

"Laws cannot be made" at a New Delhi protest site, Con-

gress spokesman Rashid Alvi said, adding that Hazare had made his views known and was now "insulting Parliament." Critics have called Hazare's campaign intolerant of dissenting views.

Prime Minister Manmohan Singh, meanwhile, has called an all-party meeting for Wednesday aimed at reaching a political consensus before introducing an anti-corruption bill Dec. 19, but so far Hazare and the main opposition have criticized the government's working draft as too weak. They want the bill to put low-level bureaucrats as well as the prime minister under an anti-graft watchdog. Hazare has also called for the right to recall corrupt officials from office. "The government has given nothing substantial," Hazare aide Kiran Bedi told the protesters Sunday.

Hazare—a former army truck driver who now fashions himself after pacifist freedom fighter Mohandas K. Gandhi—is seen by many as India's greatest hope for confronting official corruption. His 12-day hunger strike in August drew tens of thousands of adoring supporters and forced a seemingly remote Parliament to put the issue on its agenda.

He has called his campaign a second freedom fight in a country where top officials are regularly embroiled in scandals even as hundreds of millions of people are trapped in poverty. He also held a five-day fast in April that forced the government to include him in a committee drafting a bill.

But Hazare has also drawn critics and skeptics who say his populist campaign unfairly vilifies elected officials while holding them hostage to his demands. They have also questioned Hazare's pacifist commitment given his advocacy of corporal punishment for alcoholics and his recent call that the agriculture minister receive "just one slap."

"His methods are not Gandhian," the liberation icon's great grandson, Tushar Gandhi, told Press Trust of India, noting that there is talk "about beating up and hitting people."

Before beginning Sunday's fast, Hazare visited Gandhi's memorial in New Delhi to meditate, surrounded by clamoring TV reporters and rolling cameras.

Hazare has threatened an indefinite fast if legislation is not passed by the end of the parliamentary session on Dec. 22.

World

Noriega returns to Panama a largely irrelevant man

PANAMA CITY, Panama (AP)—More than two decades after the U.S. forced him from power, Manuel Noriega returned to Panama on Sunday as a prisoner and, to many of those he once ruled with impunity, an irrelevant man.

Some Panamanians feel hatred for the former strongman and rejected American ally; a few others nostalgia. But as he returned to his native country for the first time since his ouster, it seemed like few people had any strong feelings at all.

There were no legions of admirers at Panama City's Tocumen airport when the Spanish Iberia airlines' flight touched down, delivering him from Paris' La Sante prison after a stopover in Madrid. The crowds in the capital Sunday were of holiday shoppers.

Noriega, who has served drug sentences in the United States and a money-laundering term in France, was whisked by helicopter to the El Renacer prison to serve out three 20-year sentences for the slayings of political opponents in the 1980s. An elevated platform was set up at the prison so journalists could watch him enter, giving Panamanians what likely was their only glimpse of the man who once ran



AP
Panama's ex-dictator Manuel Noriega, left, gestures while being carried in a wheelchair by police officers inside El Renacer prison in the outskirts of Panama City, Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011. Noriega

the country like his private fiefdom.

Authorities sowed confusion at the prison by first wheeling in a person thought to be Noriega in a wheelchair, covering him with what appeared to be a coat so his face could not be seen. But then a convoy arrived about a half hour later, triggering speculation the first person was a decoy.

Roxana Mendez, the interior minister, later told the TVN news channel was Noriega was in the second convoy.

"We reiterate that we had to safeguard the physical safety of Noriega," she said.

The lack of a view of Noriega afforded by the tight security frustrated some Panamanians.

"We are disappointed at the excessive security that kept us from seeing the prisoner," said Aurelio Barria, a member of the old opposition to Noriega, who was once known for his snappy military uniforms and nationalistic swagger.

"Why not let him be seen? What are they hiding? We want to see him handcuffed in a cell," Barria told TVN.

About a dozen protesters, identifying themselves as relatives of army officers shot by Noriega's forces, gathered at the prison's main entrance. One held a sign saying "Justice, Noriega, Killer." Another woman shouted "Die, you wretch! Now you're going to pay for your crimes." It was unlikely the ex-dictator could hear her.

Syrian troops clash with army defectors

BEIRUT (AP)—Syrian troops battled army defectors Sunday in clashes that set several military vehicles ablaze. The fighting and other violence around the nation killed at least eight people, activists said.

For the first time, an act of violent protest against President Bashar Assad's regime spilled across the border into Jordan, where about a dozen Syrians attacked their embassy Sunday in the capital, Amman, injuring at least two diplomats and four other consulate employees.

The 9-month-old uprising against Syria's authoritarian President Bashar Assad has grown increasingly violent in recent months as once-peaceful protesters take up arms and defected soldiers who have joined the uprising fight back against the army. The U.N. says more than 4,000 people have been killed since March.

Opposition activists called for a general strike starting Sunday in a bid to squeeze the government and push it to stop its bloody crackdown. Assad has refused to buckle under Arab and international pressure to step down and has shown no sign of easing his crackdown, which has included assaults by the military on unarmed protesters.

Now, fighting between loyalist forces and defectors calling themselves the Free Syrian Army threatens to push the confrontation into civil war.

In one of Sunday's clashes, which took place before dawn in the north-

President Ricardo Martinelli said Noriega "should pay for the damage and horror committed against the people of Panama

Downtown, some people could be heard banging pots and honking car horns, a symbolic gesture of repudiation that activists had suggested to show their rejection of Noriega. The 77-year-old former general returned to a country much different from the one he left after surrendering to U.S. forces Jan. 3, 1990. The government, once a revolving cast of military strongmen, is now governed by its fourth democratically elected president.

El Chorrillo, Noriega's boyhood neighborhood and a downtown slum that was heavily bombed during the 1989 invasion, now stands in the shadow of luxury high-rise condominiums that have sprung up along the Panama Canal since the United States handed over control of the waterway in 2000.

The rotting wooden tenements of the community have been replaced by cement housing blocks. Noriega's former headquarters have been torn down and converted into a park with basketball courts.

While some Panamanians are eager to see punishment for the man who stole elections and dispatched squads of thugs to beat opponents bloody in the streets, others believe his return means little.

"I don't think Noriega has anything hugely important to say," said retired Gen. Ruben Dario Paredes, who headed Panama's army before Noriega took over in the early 1980s. "The things he knows about have lost relevance, because the world has changed and the country has, as well."

western town of Kfar Takharim, two of the military's armored vehicles were set ablaze, said the British-based Syrian Observatory for Human Rights.

Three other vehicles were burned in another clash near the southern village of Busra al-Harir, the group said. Similar battles took place in several other parts of the south, said the Observatory and another activist group called the Local Coordination Committees.

The Observatory said two people were killed in the clash with defectors in Kfar Takharim. Two other people who went missing days ago were tortured to death in the central province of Homs, and one person was shot at a checkpoint in the southern province of Daraa, the group said.

The group also said that two people were killed in the central province of Homs, and the body of another person who had been missing for days was also found Sunday. Two other people were killed in the Damascus suburb of Douma, and another person in Hama in central Syria.

The LCC put Sunday's death toll at 18. It was impossible to resolve the discrepancy or to independently verify either death count.

Syria has banned most foreign journalists and prevented local reporters from moving freely. Accounts from activists and witnesses, along with amateur videos posted online, provide key channels of information.

Climate deal doesn't make things worse—or better

JOHANNESBURG, South Africa (AP)—The hard-fought deal at a global climate conference in South Africa keeps talks alive but doesn't address the core problem: The world's biggest carbon polluters aren't willing to cut emissions of greenhouse gases enough to stave off dangerous levels of global warming.

With many scientists saying time is running out, a bigger part of the solution may have to come from the rise of climate-friendly technologies being developed outside the U.N. process.

"We avoided a train wreck and we got some useful incremental decisions," said Alden Meyer, of the Washington-based Union of Concerned Scientists. "The bad news is that we did very little here to affect the emissions curve which is accelerating, and the impacts of climate change which are climbing day by day."

Scientists say that if levels of

greenhouse gases continue to rise, eventually the world's climate will reach a tipping point, with irreversible melting of some ice sheets and a several-foot rise in sea levels.

They cannot pinpoint exactly when that would happen, but the two-decade-long climate negotiations have been focused on preventing global temperatures from rising more than 2 degrees Fahrenheit (1.2 degrees Celsius) above current levels by the end of this century.

A report released before the Durban talks by the U.N. Environment Programme said greenhouse gas emissions need to peak before 2020 for the world to have a shot of reaching that target. It said that's doable only if nations raise their emissions pledges.

In Durban, they did not.

Sunday's deal extends by five years the Kyoto Protocol, the 1997 agreement that has binding emissions targets

for some industrial countries but not the world's biggest carbon polluters, China and the United States.

The Durban agreement also envisions a new accord with binding targets for all countries to take effect in 2020. And it sets up the bodies that will collect, govern and distribute tens of billions of dollars to poor countries suffering the effects of climate change.

"But the core question of whether more than 190 nations can cooperate in order to peak and bring down emissions to the necessary level by 2020 remains open—it is a high-risk strategy for the planet and its people," UNEP chief Achim Steiner said.

Climate talks have been bogged down by rifts between rich and poor, between fully industrialized nations and emerging economies, about how to share the burden of reducing greenhouse emissions.

Hamas in Gaza says it's learning from Arab Spring

GAZA CITY, Gaza Strip (AP)—Bans on women smoking water pipes in public and male coiffeurs styling women's hair are no longer being strictly enforced in the Hamas-controlled Gaza Strip, apparent signs of greater tolerance as the Islamic militant group acknowledges mistakes in seeking to impose a religious lifestyle.

In explaining the change, several senior members said Hamas has matured in five years in power and learned lessons from the Arab Spring. Islamic groups that have scored election victories in the wake of pro-democracy uprisings in the region now find themselves trying to allay fears they seek Islamic rule.

Since seizing Gaza, Hamas had largely silenced opponents and tried to impose stricter religious rules on an already conservative society. Modesty squads asked young couples seen in public to show proof of marriage,

told beachgoers to put on more clothes and ordered shopowners to cover up mannequins. High school girls came under pressure from teachers to wear headscarves.

In recent months, there's been a change in atmosphere, say rights activists and even political rivals of Hamas.

"Things are freer than before," said Nasser Radwan, whose family restaurant is one of the places where women again come to smoke water pipes.

Hamas spokesman Fawzi Barhoum said "some mistakes were made" under Hamas rule, though he blamed individual security commanders and overzealous activists, not the government, for heavy-handed tactics.

"They don't represent the ideology and policy of the Hamas movement," Barhoum said. "Our policy is that we are not going to dictate anything to anyone."

Huda Naim, a Hamas legislator,

said the movement took its cues from the pro-democracy revolts sweeping the Arab world, but also has learned it needs to be more tolerant of others.

It's not clear whether the changes are tactical, or whether they represent a true shift that will lead to more political freedom. Hamas has shut down offices of political rival Fatah, arrested activists and strictly controls the local media. However, in recent months, it has permitted rivals, including Fatah, to stage rallies that were previously banned.

There are no signs Hamas is softening its stance toward Israel—the movement refuses to recognize the Jewish state or rule out violence against it—or that it is breaking its alliance with financial benefactor Iran and with Syria, its longtime host. Hamas has reduced its presence in Syria following President Bashar Assad's crackdown on anti-government protesters, but continues to maintain a foothold there.

AUSTIN, Texas (AP)—Mitt Romney and Newt Gingrich have promised to complete a nearly 1,950-mile fence. Michele Bachmann wants a double fence. Ron Paul pledges to secure the nation's southern border by any means necessary, and Rick Perry says he can secure it without a fence—and do so within a year of taking office as president.

But a border that is sealed off to all illegal immigrants and drugs flowing north is a promise none of them could keep.

"Securing the border is a wonderful slogan, but that's pretty much all it is," said Ted Galen Carpenter, a senior fellow at the libertarian Cato Institute. "Even to come close would require measures that would make legal commerce with Mexico impossible. That's an enormous price for what would still be a very leaky system."

Perry, the longest-serving governor of a state that makes up roughly 65 percent of America's border with Mexico, already knows that. What he's actually pledging, clarifies spokeswoman Catherine Frazier, is achieving "operational control" of the border—defined by the U.S. Border Patrol as areas where it can detect, respond to and interdict illegal activity either at the border or after entry into the U.S.

The U.S. Border Patrol says 873 miles of the border, about 44 percent, have been brought under operational control. Homeland Security Secretary Janet Napolitano has said that "the border is better now than it ever has been."

Still, that means full control isn't even half met. And even getting this far required bolstering the ranks of the Border Patrol to the highest levels ever, from about 9,500 along the border in 2004 to 18,152 today. Immigration and Customs Enforcement also has a record number of agents on the border, and five Predator drones now patrol strategic parts of it, with a sixth coming by the end of the year. About 650 miles of fencing has been constructed, and 1,200 National Guard soldiers dispatched last year to Texas, California, Arizona and New Mexico have had their deployment extended through the end of the year.

Campaigning in Iowa last week, Gingrich signed a pledge to build a fence stretching the length of the border by the end of 2013. That may help him recover from a recent statement that illegal immigrants who have been established in the U.S. for many years should be allowed to remain in the country—a position his opponents have likened to amnesty.

Perry has steadfastly opposed the fence, saying it would take 10 to 15 years to build, cost \$30 billion and



In this April 19, 2011, file photo, a member of the National Guard checks on his colleague inside a Border Patrol Skybox near the Hidalgo International Bridge in Hidalgo, Texas. National Guard members along the Texas-Mexico border assist Border Patrol by surveying the terrain from the tower. AP

wouldn't work anyway. Instead, he wants to flood the border with more National Guard troops until the number of Border Patrol agents necessary to really secure the area are trained and deployed. He also wants to build strategic fencing in high-traffic areas and make better use of airborne surveillance. Perry claims that would mean full operational control by January 2014.

Romney, meanwhile, has publicly agreed with Perry that tackling larger immigration policy reform is impossible without first securing the border.

By some measures, U.S. authorities already have made strides toward that goal. The Pew Hispanic Center says the number of illegal immigrants in the United States peaked at 12 million in 2007, but then dropped by almost 1 million through 2009, and has largely held steady since then at about 11.1 million.

Border Patrol apprehensions of illegal immigrants have also fallen

sharply. In fiscal year 2011, which ended Sept. 30, the Border Patrol captured 327,577 illegal immigrants on the southwestern border—the lowest total in four decades.

The poor U.S. economy makes would-be illegal immigrants less likely to come, and those who do must contend with Mexico's drug war, which has seen cartel gunmen slaughter people heading north and dump their bodies in mass graves. Jeff Passel, the Pew Center's senior demographer, said the trip is now so risky that the number of illegal immigrants using pricey people smugglers has spiked.

"It's hard to separate the effect of the economy and increased enforcement," Passel said. "It's a lot harder physically to get across the border, but it's also more expensive and more dangerous, and you're faced with the prospect of having no job when you get here."

Spillover into the U.S. of Mexican drug violence is also difficult to mea-

sure. In terms of violent crime, El Paso, Texas, ranks among the safest cities in the U.S.—even though it's across from violence-torn Ciudad Juarez. Drug crime aside, Rep. Michael McCaul, a Texas Republican who heads a Homeland Security subcommittee, said he's worried about cartels teaming with international terrorists.

"It's not secure," McCaul said of the border, "and anybody that lives down there, I think, will tell you that." U.S. intelligence officials counter that they know of no case in which a terrorist has sneaked across the border to plot actively against the U.S.

Carpenter, who has written extensively on the increasing brutality of Mexican drug cartels, called the presidential candidates' pledges to secure the border "mainly defensive."

"If you don't take a strong position on border security, you leave yourself open to allegations that you're soft on immigration or drugs," he said.

Michael Lytle, a former consultant on border security and counterterrorism, said it's hard to even conceptualize a fully secure border since the Arizona desert presents different challenges than the millions of commercial trucks rumbling north into Laredo, Texas, or than pedestrians streaming from Tijuana to San Diego. Tracking would-be terrorists also has little to do with stopping migrant workers sneaking into the U.S., or coping with well-armed drug smugglers.

"You can't look at it as 'the whole border,'" he said.

Lytle, an associate professor at the University of Texas at Brownsville, said a deployment of 15,000 National Guard troops could make an impact—but it would be a hard sell for a Defense Department facing budget cuts.

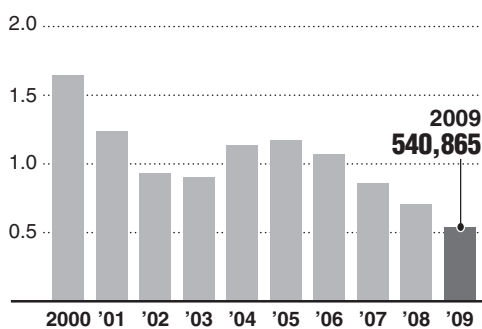
"A troop surge there, would that seal the border? Probably not," Lytle said. "And even if it did, how long could you sustain that?"

More help headed to border

The U.S. Senate approved a request by President Barack Obama for another 1,500 agents and officials to beef up security along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Illegal immigrant arrests

Along the U.S.-Mexico border, by fiscal year, in millions



Source: U.S. Customs and Border Protection Graphic: Chicago Tribune

A closer look at border security

By border patrol sector

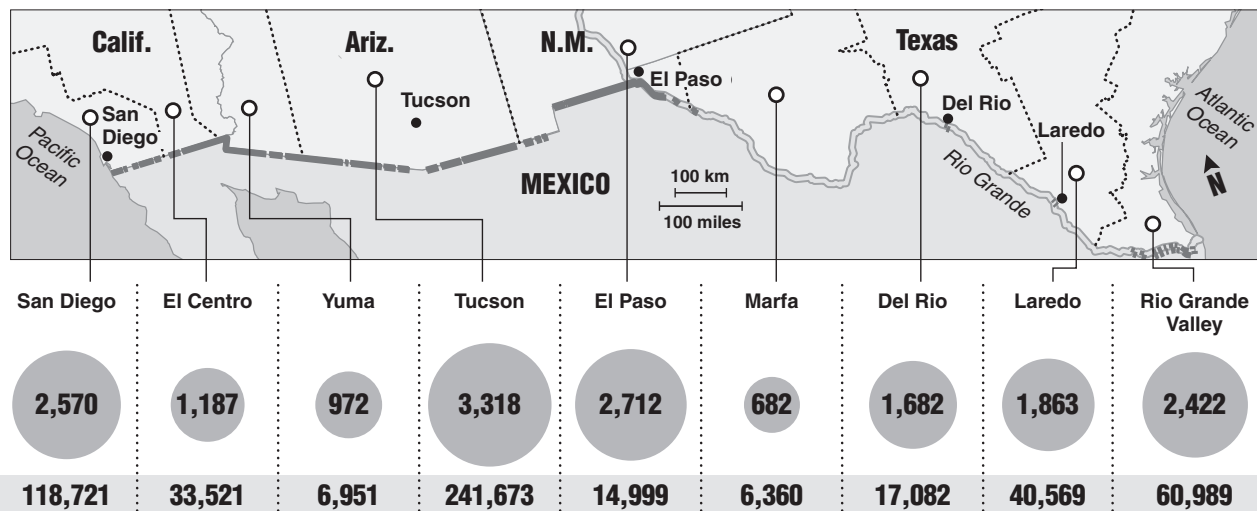
— Completed areas of border fence
As of Dec. 25, 2009

--- Sector boundaries

For fiscal year 2009, ending Sept. 30:

Border patrol agents
Total: 17,408

Arrests



Overdrive

Toyota Camry had long road to the top

By LARRY PRINTZ
THE VIRGINIAN-PILOT

If one car best captures Americans' taste in automobiles, it's the Toyota Camry, America's best-selling car every year except for one since 1997.

But it took almost a decade and a half to get there.

The front-wheel-drive Camry debuted for 1983, replacing the rear-wheel-drive Corona. Unlike its competitor, the Honda Accord, which was available as a sedan or coupe, the Camry was only available as a sedan, although it was offered as a liftback or notchback.

At 175.6 inches long, about the same length as a 2012 Corolla, the 1983 Camry was powered by a 92-horsepower 2.0-liter overhead-cam engine, which got a 3-hp bump for 1985. A turbocharged diesel engine was optional, but never proved popular.

The Camry's boxy styling was softened when it was restyled for 1987. The new model was longer, wider and more powerful. The four-door sedan was still offered, although a station wagon replaced the liftback model. Underneath the sheet metal, the four-cylinder engine now employed double-overhead-cams and produced 115 horsepower. A five-speed manual transmission was offered, but most Camrys were fitted with four-speed automatics.

For 1988 the Camry became a U.S. citizen, as the first American-built Camrys rolled off the line in Georgetown, Ky. New options included a

2.5-liter DOHC V6 engine that pumped out 153 horsepower and Toyota's "All-Trac" all-wheel-drive system.

Things changed dramatically for the third-generation Camry, introduced in 1992. The car was totally redesigned specifically for the American market, available only as a sedan. The wheelbase grew an inch, while overall length was up by six inches. Most Camrys

upgraded as well, with the addition of passenger side air bags, which joined the driver air bags and optional anti-lock brakes.

Two years later, the Camry once more underwent significant changes. The car's sumptuous curves were traded for a boxier look. The coupe and wagon were dropped. Power was up slightly, with the four now producing 133 hp and the V6 pumping out 194 hp. Anti-



MCT

The 2012 Toyota Camry redesign certainly rectifies some of the worst styling miscues of the previous model.

were delivered with a larger four-cylinder engine, a 2.2-liter unit delivering 130 horsepower. The V-6 was larger as well, displacing 3.0 liters and producing 185 horsepower. The station wagon rejoined the line-up for 1993, with a coupe added the following year.

This generation of the car was so smooth and so refined, it was used as the basis for the Lexus ES 300, a fact that wasn't missed by consumers.

1995 saw the car receive a minor styling change in both the front and rear. Safety was

lock brakes and an automatic transmission were standard on all models except the base CE.

In 1999, a coupe rejoined the line-up. Dubbed the Camry Solara, it used the same engines and platform, but unlike the previous Camry coupe, it boasted unique styling that owed little to its sibling.

The following year, the Camry got a bit of a design freshening, in preparation for an all-new model that debuted two years later.

Surprisingly, the 2002 model had lines that in some regards

harkened back to the 1992 model. Clearly Toyota was trying to recapture some of that car's magic, as it was the first all-new platform in ten years. Once more, the Camry grew in size and power. The 2.4-liter four-cylinder engine was good for 157 hp, while the 3.0-liter V6 was rated at 192 hp. Transmissions remained unchanged. All models could be fitted with an automatic transmission, but only four-cylinder Camrys could be fitted with a manual. A navigation system was a new option.

A new V6 engine was introduced two years later, a 3.3-liter mill pumping out 225 horsepower. In 2005, the car got design revisions, while anti-lock brakes became standard on all models.

The sixth-generation Camry debuted in 2007, with styling that once more replaced soft lines with a more dynamic, angular appearance. The four-cylinder engine carried over, still rated at 158 hp, while the V6 grew to 3.5 liters, and 268 hp. All transmissions were five-speed units. In addition, a Hybrid model debuted and marked the first time a Toyota hybrid was built in the United States. Three years later, the Camry received a makeover, while the four-cylinder engine grew to 2.5-liters and could be mated to a six-speed automatic transmission.

Now in its seventh generation for 2012, the Camry—an anglicized version of the Japanese word Kan-Muri, or crown—has grown to become the king of the American of the midsize market.

package the scan tool and DSO into one convenient and expensive package, which can range from \$7,000 to \$10,000. Snap-On's Versus goes further by including access to technical information, such as service manual and diagrams; shop management software; and Internet connectivity. Technician productivity is improved, as one tool can do all this from the driver's seat, as well as order a pizza to be delivered for lunch.

As you might imagine, a savvy auto technician needs to know far more than just how to use these tools. The real challenge is interpreting the avalanche of provided information and creating an appropriate diagnostic path, following it to a solid fix, and validating repair effectiveness.

Brad Bergholdt is an automotive technology instructor at Evergreen Valley College in San Jose, Calif. Readers may send him email at under-the-hood@earthlink.net; he cannot make personal replies.

Sputtering engine could signal range of problems

By PAUL BRAND
STAR TRIBUNE (MINNEAPOLIS)

QUESTION: I have a 1996 Chevy Corsica with 107,000 miles on it. It has an idling problem that happens only during warm weather, whether the engine is cold or hot. It starts right up, but about 45 seconds after I back out of the garage, the engine begins to chug and sputter, and the car shakes. It feels as if it's about to quit. Finally, after I pump the accelerator for five to 10 seconds, the engine will catch. Then the motor really revs up, and I need to brake to slow the car down. Computer diagnostic analysis is always normal—but I do find that if I start driving the car hard right away after starting the engine, this idling problem doesn't happen. Please help.

ANSWER: There are many possibilities, but start with the basics: old or fouled spark plugs; inaccurate coolant temperature or manifold absolute pressure (MAP) sensor; sticky throttle position sensor; leaking fuel pressure regulator or fuel injector; or low battery or system voltage.

Three professional tools may help pinpoint the problem. A scan tool connected during startup lets a technician monitor signals from the engine sensors in real time to determine whether the signal values are accurate. A fuel pressure gauge can easily identify low fuel pressure or a leaking fuel pressure regulator—any liquid fuel in the vacuum hose to the regulator would also confirm this. Finally, try connecting the engine to a professional electronic engine analyzer to monitor ignition and combustion with the engine operating from startup through the sputtering.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: We have a 2002 Camry with 115,000 miles on it. On Sept. 22, the engine light went on. We checked that the gas cap was on tightly. The dealer did a computerized evaluation, replaced a vacuum valve and manually turned the engine light off. We paid \$214 for this. On Oct. 4, the engine light came on again. This time, the dealer replaced a canister assembly for another \$515. On Oct. 17, the engine light came on again. The dealer said they couldn't do a smoke test because the gas tank was too full. They told me to bring it back when it was less than a quarter full.

We pointed out that since neither the first nor the second attempted repair managed to fix the problem we should get our \$729 back. No dice. Again, they manually turned off the engine light, and we drove the car until the gas tank was below one-quarter. The light had not come back on by then, so I didn't take it in. We filled the gas tank and continued to drive it. On Nov. 15, the engine light came on for the fourth time.

Have we been taken for a ride?

A: Only if the dealer didn't really give it his best effort to find the problem. If they just threw parts at the car based on diagnostic fault codes, you have a valid point. But then again, do physicians refund money for a misdiagnosis?

Although you didn't share the specific fault codes the dealer found, I'm assuming they relate to the evaporative emissions system. A vacuum leak—which they may find with the smoke test—may well be the problem, so why not give the dealer one more try at solving it? If they're successful, negotiate the total cost of all their repair efforts.

■ ■ ■ ■

Q: Our 2007 Mitsubishi Endeavor was totaled in a crash. I loved my Endeavor and want to buy another one. If you were given the choice of a 2008 with 35,000 miles for \$14,600 or a 2010 with 26,000 miles for around \$16,000, everything else being equal, which would you opt for and why?

A: I'd go with the newer vehicle with 9,000 fewer miles for \$1,400 more. A quick look at the National Automobile Dealers Association used-car pricing guide shows about a \$3,500 difference in value between the two vehicles and a retail price of almost \$20,000 for the 2010 base model with 26,000 miles.

Paul Brand, author of *How to Repair Your Car*, is an automotive troubleshooter, driving instructor and former race-car driver. Readers may write to him at: Star Tribune, 425 Portland Ave. S., Minneapolis, Minn. 55488 or via email at paulbrand@star-tribune.com. Please explain the problem in detail and include a daytime phone number. It isn't always possible to send a personal reply.

UNDER THE HOOD

Diagnostic tools have come a long way

By BRAD BERGHOLDT
MCCLATCHY-TRIBUNE NEWS SERVICE

QUESTION: I just got back from taking my pickup into the shop because it was running rough. It's a smaller place with good people, and I enjoy having a chance to speak with the fellow that does all the work. As a conversation starter, I commented they'd need to put her on the scope, and the young man chuckled and said they don't do that anymore. He showed me his computer scanner and said it could also do scope-like things that were different than I remembered from the old days.

I didn't want to ask more since he was now running on my nickel, but I was curious to learn more about his fancy tool, which was the size of a phone book. Can you please fill me in?—Melvin Chambers

A: It sounds like your tech

was using a diagnostic tool similar to a Snap-On Modis or Versus, which combine the functions of a scan tool and digital storage oscilloscope, along with additional cool features.

A scan tool connects to the vehicle's data link connector and provides access to diagnostic trouble codes, powertrain, brake system, body and other system data, and allows functional testing of components and switch input tests. Among other features, the scan tool can also check for emissions test readiness, serve as a flight recorder and dispense expert diagnostic troubleshooting information.

Large, roll-around automotive tune-up scopes, or oscilloscopes, have largely gone by the wayside along with carburetors, distributors and spark plug wires. While a very capable tool, many of the things a scope checked just aren't found on a car or truck anymore.

Another limitation was the power cord—you couldn't road-test very far with the scope plugged in. With the explosion in electronics technology in today's vehicles, it's important to be able to view rapidly occurring electrical signals such as sensor signals, component commands and module-to-module communication while driving down the road. These tests are sometimes needed to go beyond the vagueness of many diagnostic trouble-code descriptions and basic voltmeter tests.

A portable automotive digital storage oscilloscope, or DSO, provides waveform images of electrical signals, which are scrutinized for shape and consistency, similar to a doctor viewing an EKG. Better tools of this type also include a database of component tests and procedures, and samples of good and bad waveforms.

Some tool manufacturers

Life & Style

'Billy the Kid' PBS film explores Hispanic link

ALBUQUERQUE, N.M. (AP)—His mythical exploits and jail escapes made this son of Irish immigrants one of the nation's most famous Old West outlaws. Yet fewer know that the man widely known as Billy the Kid was a central figure in a violent, Irish-English land war in New Mexico, and was beloved by Mexican-American ranchers who felt discriminated against by racist white bankers and land thieves.

And the Kid's end came only after he refused to abandon his Mexican-American teen girlfriend.

Despite hundreds of stories and books, movies, songs and even poems covering the notorious Billy the Kid, the PBS series American Experience is joining in exploring his life and myth with a new documentary set to air in January. Filmmaker John Maggio said this documentary will focus less on Billy the Kid the legend and more on Billy the Kid the human being.

"His whole life he was searching for a home," said Maggio. "There was more to him than the fact that he killed and was an outlaw."

Born Henry McCarty, likely in New York City, he came to New Mexico with his mother while

searching for a better economic future. It was in Silver City, N.M., that a young Billy the Kid learned Spanish and Mexican dances as he mingled easily among the territory's large Mexican-American population when others from the East Coast didn't even bother, according to Paul Hutton, a University of New Mexico American West historian, who appears in the new film.

When his mother died of tuberculosis when he was 15, Billy the Kid was left an orphan and raised largely by Mexican-American ranchers and sheepherders.

This helped the Kid later when he was on the run from the law and was given shelter by poor Mexican-Americans ranchers he befriended, Hutton said.

To emphasize this, Maggio included in the film Latina novelist Denise Chavez and Native American writer N. Scott Momaday, who discuss their beliefs that Billy the Kid was viewed as a hero by those facing discrimination in the old territory, despite his reputation as a horse thief and outlaw.

The PBS documentary also focuses the dueling interests of cattle ranchers from Ireland and Britain who brought old hostilities from Europe to the plains

of New Mexico. The Kid was swept up in what was known as the "Lincoln County War" after his British mentor was gunned down by a corrupt Sheriff William Brady. Billy the Kid organized the assassination of Brady in revenge, which escalated into a war between factions.

The film also discusses the Kid's love for Paulita Maxwell, the daughter of a Mexican-American landowner. When he was being chased down by another sheriff, Billy the Kid refused to leave Maxwell for safe haven south of the border. Her brother tipped off Sheriff Pat Garrett who eventually gunned down the 21-year-old Kid at the Maxwell's Fort Sumner, N.M. home.

For decades, Billy the Kid has been an important figure in New Mexico's Old West past and any story mentioning him often generates a lot of attention, as well as a lot of disagreements over historic detail.

When former New Mexico Gov. Bill Richardson considered a much-belated pardon for Billy the Kid after an Albuquerque attorney petitioned, it sparked international news and controversy, to cite one recent example.

Richardson's office received 809 emails and letters in a survey about the pardon with most

favoring it. He left office without granting the pardon.

Gov. Susana Martinez, in the days leading up to her inauguration, announced she would not consider the pardon of the state's most famous outlaw. "There's an awful lot of work to be taken care of for us to be wasting so much time on such a consideration," Martinez said.

However, earlier this year the state's tourism department launched a "Catch the Kid" summer campaign aimed at promoting travel around the state. Under the campaign, the state offered a \$10,000 reward for the capture of Billy the Kid during a game where clues were handed out at various events. Two groups of hunters "caught" the Kid at Expo New Mexico at the State Fair in September.

American Experience executive producer Mark Samels, who also produced an upcoming documentary of George Armstrong Custer, said people remain fascinated with Billy the Kid, partly because he lived such a short life and because he made headlines in the American West when he was alive.

"The West is a place of mystery, a place of extremes," said Samels. "Billy the Kid is part of that history as a rebel."



This undated file ferrotype picture provided by the Lincoln County, N.M., Heritage Trust Archive is believed to depict William Bonney, also known as Billy the Kid, circa 1880.

AP

Jackson fans leave tribute at auction site

BEVERLY HILLS, Calif. (AP)—Karen Jackson and Kiki Stafford were moved to tears as they walked among the items that surrounded Michael Jackson in his final days: The Victorian baby grand piano, the wooden armoire where Jackson had written a note to himself on the mirror, the kitchen chalkboard where his children inscribed the message, "I love daddy."

Jackson, 57, and Stafford, 47, were among dozens of Michael Jackson fans who got an early look at items that will be sold at auction from the singer's final home—and left behind tributes to the King of Pop.

Julien's Auctions announced last month that it would sell the contents of the sprawling home where the singer died in 2009. On Sunday, the company invited Jackson fans to preview its exhibit of the home's art and furnishings before it opens to the public Monday. Fans were also invited to leave pictures, cards, flowers, notes and other handmade trinkets that will be delivered to the Jackson family.

"This means a lot, because we don't have a place to go" to leave things for the family, said Christine Tucker, spokeswoman for the Official Michael Jackson Fans of Southern California. About 25 members of the fan club spent the weekend

making and delivering glitter-covered cards and handmade Christmas ornaments for the tribute at Julien's Auctions.

"He inspires us to create. We make these beautiful things and we want his kids and his mom to see it," she said.

Karen Jackson stayed up all night working on her creation: A charm-covered chain anchored by a metal "M" that includes tiny photos of Prince, Paris and Blanket.

"I've been working on this for a year," she said. "I hadn't finished it because I didn't know how to get it to them."

Darren Julien, president of Julien's Auctions, said he sought permission from the Jackson estate to include fans in the auction exhibit, and family matriarch Katherine Jackson requested that he deliver any handmade items from fans to her.

"They put their hearts into it because they want the kids and Mrs. Jackson to see how much love they have for Michael," Julien said. "Michael Jackson has played such an important part in our careers and lives, and this is a fun way to give back. This is Michael's VIP reception."

Julien's Auctions sold the contents of Jackson's Neverland Ranch in April, 2009. The company also sold Jackson's "Thriller" jacket for \$1.8 mil-

lion over the summer and his signature spangled glove for \$350,000 in 2009.

For the auction of items from Jackson's rented mansion at 100 North Carolwood Drive, Julien's Auctions re-created the home's various rooms inside its Beverly Hills showroom. There's a formal dining room anchored by a long table and 10 carved chairs, an elegant living room with damask sofas, and several bedrooms—including the one where Jackson died.

The headboard of that bed was removed from the auction at his family's request, so fans filled the space where the bed would have been with their tribute.

"Team MJ San Diego loves Michael Jackson," one note spelled out in foil letters. "We miss you," read another. Fans also left flowers and plush toys, drawings and letters.

"I'm glad the headboard's not there," said Stafford, who left behind a poem she'd written about Jackson.

Among the lots available for sale, fans were most interested in photographing the armoire with Jackson's handwritten message (expected to sell for at least \$6,000) and the chalkboard note from his children (expected to fetch more than \$400). Other items for sale include carved wooden tables, antique statues and various framed paintings.

Lip-synching Indonesia cop fired amid YouTube fame

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—First, Indonesian police were angry about a young cop's YouTube lip-synching antics. Then, they championed him for softening the image of an unloved force. Now, after he put stardom over police duty, Norman Kamaru has been fired.

"Who does he think he is?" a clearly frustrated police spokeswoman, Lt. Col. Lisma Dunggio, said Wednesday from his hometown. "What made him famous was his uniform."

But the 26-year-old Kamaru told reporters he wanted to give singing a real shot. And he wasn't afraid of failure.

The video of Kamaru trying to lift the spirits of a heartbroken colleague by shimmying and lip-synching to the Bollywood hit "Chaiyya Chaiyya" went viral in April.

Initially, the top brass was furious.

But that changed when the public rallied to support the charismatic young officer.

Suddenly, Kamaru was being flown from his dusty police outpost of Gorontalo to the capital, flanked by high-ranking officers who smiled broadly as squealing girls begged for his autograph.

As a new, unexpected asset to the force—widely considered one of the country's most corrupt institutions—Kamaru started appearing regularly on TV talk shows in full uniform.



AP

In this photo taken April 12, 2011, police officer Norman Kamaru, center, dances with a fan during a show in Jakarta, Indonesia.

As it turned out, he had a voice.

With a \$100,000 record deal in his pocket, Kamaru told his bosses he wanted out. They said no. And he stopped coming to work.

Saud Usman Nasution, spokesman for the national police, said Kamaru was dishonorably discharged on Tuesday.

"He hasn't shown up for two months."

Kamaru, who has a pierced tongue, said it was a relief to be rid of his crisp, khaki uniform.

"I always had to behave," he told the English-language Jakarta Post, dressed casually in jeans, a T-shirt and a jacket,

while waiting to appear on a TV talk show.

"I feel free dressing like this. I feel comfortable."

Social networking sites like Facebook and Twitter lit up. Some fans wished him well, but critics said he had no real talent, that fame had gotten to his head. Several tweeted the Indonesian expression that he was a "nut who forgot his shell."

Kamaru told reporters he didn't care. He wanted to try to sing.

And, if he fell on his face, "no problem."

"There are many jobs out there," he said. "I could always be a motorcycle taxi driver."

HOLLYWOOD THEATERS

Don't just go to the movies.
GO HOLLYWOOD!

Located near Price Costco in San Jose Saipan MP • 234-9000



\$6.00 Bargain Matinees - All Shows Before 6PM
\$6.00 All Day Admission For Seniors
\$4.75 All Day Admission For Kids (ages 3-11)
\$6.00 Student Admission with Valid I.D.
\$6.00 Military with Valid I.D.

T TIMEWARP TUESDAY

\$6.00 ALL SHOWS ALL DAY/NIGHT
(EXCLUDING HOLIDAYS AND RESTRICTED FEATURES)

RESERVE TICKETS ONLINE AT www.gohollywood.com



Friday, Dec. 9th through Thursday, Dec. 15th, 2011
OPEN SEVEN DAYS A WEEK

★ ★ ★ NOW SHOWING ★ ★ ★



New Year's Eve

Friday		4:05	7:05	9:35
Saturday	1:05	4:05	7:05	9:35
Sunday	1:05	4:05	7:05	
Monday thru Thursday		4:05	7:05	

Halle Berry, Robert De Niro, Ashton Kutcher
Comedy drama • Rated PG13

Synopsis

Director Garry Marshall follows up his surprise hit Valentine's Day with this all-star ensemble film featuring a cast that includes Robert De Niro, Michelle Pfeiffer, Hilary Swank, and Ashton Kutcher.



The Sitter

Friday		4:25	7:25	9:55
Saturday	1:25	4:25	7:25	9:55
Sunday	1:25	4:25	7:25	
Monday thru Thursday		4:25	7:25	

Jonah Hill, Sam Rockwell, Ari Graynor
Comedy • Rated R

Synopsis

A college dropout becomes a babysitter to make some quick cash, and takes his three young charges on an epic urban adventure in this comedy from director David Gordon Green (George Washington, Pineapple Express). Noah (Jonah Hill) isn't a babysitter, but he'll do just about anything for a little extra cash in his wallet.



Arthur Christmas

Friday		4:10	7:10	9:45
Saturday	1:10	4:10	7:10	9:45
Sunday	1:10	4:10	7:10	
Monday thru Thursday		4:10	7:10	

James McAvoy, Hugh Laurie
Comedy • Rated PG



Twilight Saga: Breaking Dawn-Part 1

Friday		4:15	7:15	10:00
Saturday	1:15	4:15	7:15	10:00
Sunday	1:15	4:15	7:15	
Monday thru Thursday		4:15	7:15	

Robert Pattinson, Kristen Stewart
Fantasy • Rated PG 13



Happy Feet Two

Friday		4:00	7:00	9:30
Saturday	1:00	4:00	7:00	9:30
Sunday	1:00	4:00	7:00	
Monday thru Thursday		4:00	7:00	

Elijah Wood, Robin Williams
Children's/family • Rated PG



The Muppets

Friday		4:20		
Saturday	1:20	4:20		
Sunday	1:20	4:20		
Monday thru Thursday		4:20		

Jason Segel, Amy Adams
Children's/family, Comedy • Rated PG



Immortals

Friday		7:20	9:40
Saturday		7:20	9:40
Sunday		7:20	
Monday thru Thursday		7:20	

Henry Cavill, Mickey Rourke, Freida Pinto
Epic • Rated R



Jack and Jill

Friday		4:30	7:30	9:50
Saturday	1:30	4:30	7:30	9:50
Sunday	1:30	4:30	7:30	
Monday thru Thursday		4:30	7:30	

Adam Sandler, Katie Holmes
Comedy • Rated PG

• NO PASSES • NO PASSES OR SUPER SAVERS

GIFT CERTIFICATES AVAILABLE • R-RATED FILMS REQUIRE PHOTO I.D.

www.gohollywood.com

Helen Mirren hails Nobel Peace Prize laureates

OSLO, Norway (AP)—British actress Helen Mirren hailed this year's Nobel Peace Prize to three women as historic, but said Sunday it's shameful that so few women have won the award since it was created in 1901.

Mirren said the award marks an "extraordinary moment in the history of women," but that it is "slightly shameful statistically that only 12 women have won it in a 112 years, when you think how important women historically have always been, specifically in terms of peace."

She spoke to The Associated Press before the Nobel Peace Prize concert in Oslo on Sunday, which she will host with American actress Rosario Dawson.

The concert will honor this year's peace prize winners Liberian President Ellen Johnson Sirleaf and women's right activist Leymah Gbowee, also of Liberia, and democracy activist Tawakkul Karman of Yemen. Together, the three have boosted the number of women who have received the peace prize from 12 to 15.

Mirren said this year's award



American actress Rosario Dawson, left, and Dame Helen Mirren host the Nobel Peace Prize Concert Sunday Dec. 11, 2011 in Oslo, Norway.

is a historic moment, "but it is only a step on a journey that women are taking, and hopefully in 20-30 years time we will be looking at a very different scenario in the world."

She also said she has "witnessed first hand" the struggle of women in Uganda.

"In my personal experience,

wherever there was a force for the positive, for creativity, it was almost always led by women and they are doing it with no recognition and under very difficult circumstances," she said.

Mirren also pointed out that the three winners all come from small grass-root movements.

"It is so important for all of

us to realize that these movements start in very, very small ways," she said, adding that it is important for young women to have role models like this year's peace prize winners.

Rosario Dawson said she was inspired by the laureates during the ceremony Saturday in Oslo City Hall.

"I love being able to be part of this story and help these voices being as loud as possible because I believe in them and they are our future," she said.

Dawson said the peace prize helps grow the community of peace makers and "give them a platform that is just as strong as the corrupters."

She added that their stories are representations "of who you can become, and it does not care where you start."

The lineup of artists performing at the concert includes the Grammy Award-winning singer and activist from Benin, Angelique Kidjo, Yemen's Ahmed Fathi, Liberian-born singer Miatta Fahnbulleh, David Gray, Jill Scott and the World Youth Choir.

Clooney's 'Descendants' leads LA critics awards

LOS ANGELES (AP)—George Clooney's family drama "The Descendants" was chosen Sunday as the year's best film by the Los Angeles Film Critics Association, whose prizes are an early influence on the way to the Academy Awards.

From "Sideways" director Alexander Payne, "The Descendants" stars Clooney as a neglectful father in Hawaii trying to tend his daughters after his wife falls into an accident-induced coma.

Michael Fassbender won best actor for a breakout year that included leading roles as a sex addict in "Shame," as a genetic mutant in "X-Men: First Class," as psychiatrist Carl Jung in "A Dangerous Method" and as sullen Victorian gentleman Rochester in "Jane Eyre."

The best-actor runner-up was Michael Shannon as a man beset by apocalyptic visions in "Take Shelter."

The critics' group passed over big Hollywood names to bestow its best-actress prize on Yun Jung-hee for the South Korean drama "Poetry," in which she plays a grandmother in the early stages of Alzheimer's who struggles with a new desire to write a poem.

Kirsten Dunst was best-ac-



George Clooney, left, and Shailene Woodley star in "The Descendants."

ress runner-up as a depressive woman who finds inner strength as another planet bears down on a collision course with Earth in "Melancholia."

Notoriously press-shy filmmaker Terrence Malick was named best director for his epic family drama "The Tree of Life," starring Brad Pitt as a domineering father who mixes tenderness and cruelty in raising his sons. "Tree of Life" was the best-picture runner-up to "The Descendants."

The film also helped pick up the supporting-actress honor for Jessica Chastain, who was cited for "The Tree of Life" and five other films in which she co-starred this year. "Tree of Life"

also earned the cinematography award for Emmanuel Lubezki (the runner-up was Cao Yu for "City of Life and Death").

The directing runner-up was Martin Scorsese for his 3-D family adventure "Hugo," about an orphan boy unraveling a mystery pegged to a toy-seller at a Paris train station in the 1930s.

Christopher Plummer won as supporting actor for "Beginners," in which he plays an elderly dad who announces to his son that he's gay. The runner-up was Patton Oswalt as an aging nerd who becomes unlikely pals with an old high school bombshell in "Young Adult."

Chastain, largely unknown until this year when she appeared

in half a dozen films, was picked as supporting actress for her rush of movies, among them "Tree of Life," in which she plays a nurturing mother as counterpoint to Pitt's harsh dad. Besides "Tree of Life," Chastain's films included "The Help," "Take Shelter" and "Coriolanus."

Janet McTeer was runner-up for supporting actress for her cross-dressing role as a woman disguising herself as a male laborer in "Albert Nobbs."

The LA critics passed over the acclaimed silent film "The Artist," considered a potential best-picture favorite at the Feb. 26 Oscars. Their East Coast counterparts, the New York Film Critics Circle, chose "The Artist" as the year's best picture last week. "The Artist" also is tied for the lead with five nominations at the Spirit Awards honoring independent film.

Prizes from the two critics' groups help sort out the awards picture amid the crush of Oscar contenders that studios fling into theaters at the end of the year. The Oscar outlook will be further refined by nominations Wednesday for the Screen Actors Guild Awards and Thursday for the Golden Globes.

Obama, family attend 'Christmas in Washington'

WASHINGTON (AP)—The Obamas celebrated the holiday season with musical stars Justin Bieber, Cee Lo Green, Jennifer Hudson, Victoria Justice and the Band Perry at the 30th annual "Christmas in Washington" concert Sunday night.

President Barack Obama, his wife Michelle, daughters Malia and Sasha, and mother-in-law Marian Robinson attended the concert to benefit the Children's National Medical Center.

The concert of Christmas carols and songs—which took place at the National Building Museum—was hosted by comedian Conan O'Brien.

In honor of the "season to celebrate miracles," Obama spoke about the story of Jesus' birth during his brief remarks to the crowd.

He said the story of Jesus Christ has changed the world by teaching basic values such as loving one another, help-

ing and serving the less fortunate, forgiving, drawing closer to family, being grateful and keeping faith.

"Those are values that are shared by all faiths," Obama said. "Let us all rededicate ourselves to each other in that spirit."

Before the concert, the Obamas greeted patients of the children's medical center dressed as elves and presented them with a basket of children's books.

Obama playfully struggled to lift the basket and asked the elves to help him place it under a Christmas tree.

Other entertainers included the United States Naval Academy Glee Club, Washington Youth Choir, American Family Choir, United States Army Band Herald Trumpets, Ian Fraser and the Christmas in Washington Orchestra.

The concert will air Friday on TNT.

Ernie and Cindy claim \$1 million prize on 'Race'

NEW YORK (AP)—"The Amazing Race" took its final three teams on a frantic scramble through Atlanta during Sunday's conclusion of the CBS competition show.

In the end, it was Ernie Halvorsen and his fiancée Cindy Chiang, both from Chicago, who crossed the finish line at Atlanta's historic Swan House to win the \$1 million prize. In second place were Californians Jeremy Cline and Sandy Draghi. In third place were former NFL player Marcus Pollard and his wife Amani, from Pine Mountain, Ga.

During this last leg of the round-the-world race, the couples were required to land a jetliner in a flight simulator, find "Gone With the Wind" author Margaret Mitchell's home, and plot their 40,000-mile odyssey on a giant world map erected high above the parking lot at Turner Field.

But interviewed after the broadcast, the winners said their most unnerving moment was the basic task of getting a cab at Atlanta's airport.

"Nobody wanted to take us,"



In this photo provided by CBS, host Phil Keoghan, right, greets engaged couple Cindy Chiang and Ernie Halvorsen, winners of the 19th installment of "The Amazing Race," Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 in Atlanta.

Ernie said. "That was the most stressful thing as we saw the other teams departing."

Finally a driver volunteered, "and we give him all the rest of our money as a tip," said Cindy.

The episode's most comic

scene: when Jeremy and Sandy went in search of "the Dump," the name for Mitchell's famous residence, but instead were delivered by their driver to a huge department store called The Dump, where they

wasted precious time prowling its aisles in vain to find the clue that wasn't there.

"This is so nerve-racking," said Draghi when they were back on the road. "I have to get on Prilosec when I get home."

Alec Baldwin apologizes to himself on 'SNL'

Benicio del Toro's directorial debut shows in Cuba

HAVANA (AP)—Puerto Rican actor Benicio del Toro said the labor of love that went into his directorial debut in the movie "Seven Days in Havana" was so gratifying that he plans to keep working behind the camera.

"To see the motivation of all the artists, working 14 hours a day, to see the confidence they had in me, the collaboration between everything, is something very special," del Toro said Friday evening at a news conference in Havana, where "Seven Days" is screening this week at the city's annual film festival.

"It's an experience that motivates me to dream of trying it again," said del Toro, who won the 2003 Oscar for best supporting actor for his role as a Tijuana drug cop in "Traffic."

"Seven Days" is a French-Spanish production made up of seven shorts, based on stories by Cuban writer Leonardo Padura, that take place on different days of the week and show different visions of Cuban society.

Del Toro directed the first segment: "The Yuma," Cuban slang for "The American," which tells the story of a young American who travels to Havana for the film festival.

NEW YORK (AP)—Posing as the airline pilot of the flight he was kicked off of, Alec Baldwin apologized to himself on "Saturday Night Live."

The actor appeared on the sketch program's "Weekend Update" on Saturday night to lampoon Tuesday's incident,

in which he was kicked off an American Airlines flight for refusing to stop playing a mobile phone game before takeoff.

As a Southern, mustachioed airline pilot, Baldwin issued an apology for the incident. The joke, though, was how obvious the ploy was.

The actor referred to himself as an "American treasure" who was playing "a word game for smart people."

"Weekend Update" host Seth Meyers repeatedly questioned the thinly veiled performance, asking Baldwin, "Are you sure this is the right way to handle this?"

Adele tops iTunes song, album charts on 2011 sales

NEW YORK (AP)—Adele dominated music this year, and iTunes was no exception.

The British songstress had iTunes' best-selling album and song, and was named as its top artist.

Adele's "21" is the year's top-selling album with 4.8 million copies sold. Some of those numbers came from iTunes, where the album was the most popular; following behind was "Sigh No More" by Mumford & Sons, Lil Wayne's "Tha Carter IV," Jay-Z and Kanye West's "Watch the Throne" and Coldplay's "Mylo Xyloto."

Adele's No. 1 hit "Rolling in the Deep" was the best-selling song. At No. 2 was LMFAO's "Party Rock Anthem" (with Lauren Bennett and GoonRock), followed by Katy Perry's "Firework," Bruno Mars' "Grenade" and Cee Lo Green's "Forget You."

iTunes picked Nicki Minaj as



its breakthrough artist of the year, Foster the People's "Pumped Up Kicks" as its song of the year and "Wasting Light" by the Foo Fighters as album of the year. Foo Fighters frontman Dave Grohl said in a statement he was excited to be noted for "an album made in my garage, totally analog to tape, without the help of any computers at all."

"Angry Birds" was the top

paid iPhone and iPad app, "The Social Network" was iTunes' best-selling movie and "Doctor Who" was the best-selling season TV series. (An episode of "Walking Dead" was the best-selling TV episode.)

The best-selling fiction book was "The Help," while "Steve Jobs," the book on Apple's late founder, was the best-selling nonfiction book.

No comeback for Swiss Eurovision singer

BERLIN (AP)—The first-ever winner of the Eurovision Song Contest has failed in her attempt to make a comeback in the continent's annual popsong festival.

Eighty-seven-year-old Lys Assia had sought to become the oldest singer to participate in the

Eurovision contest that she won the year of its inception in 1956 with the song "Refrain."

Assia placed eighth out of 14 in a pre-round to select a singer to represent Switzerland, organizers said Sunday. The jury said that her ballad "C'etait ma vie" ("it was my life") lacked

"modern elements."

The 2012 Eurovision Song Contest is to be held in Baku, Azerbaijan. The event boasts participants from across Europe and is broadcast live across the continent. Votes cast by viewers and a jury determine the winner

Seriously overweight husband presents big issues for wife

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DEAR ABBY: I am 35 and my husband is 45. When we met, he weighed 375 pounds. He has now hit the 600-pound mark. I have five kids, a full-time job and go to school two nights a week. He talks about losing weight, but it's easier to talk about than actually do. He was in a car accident that left him with back problems, and on top of that he has bad knees from sports.



Dear Abby

The future doesn't look promising. I know that one day he'll be confined to bed—I predict in the very near future—and I will have to drop everything to take care of him. He is already dependent on me and the older kids to take care of him because he's in pain all the time and can't physically do anything. He doesn't have insurance.

If I didn't have a family to take care of, it might not be as big of an issue. This is very depressing. I am thinking of seeing a counselor. He has already told me that he won't go. Your input would be greatly appreciated.

WIFE OF A BIG MAN

DEAR WIFE: Talk to a counselor right away. Unless you do something now, you will be unemployed and homebound with a sick husband and five dependent children. Who enabled your helpless husband to gain all the weight?

His life depends upon him being on a strict, sensible nutrition regimen. Because he has no insurance, a self-help group could be a lifesaver. Overeaters Anonymous may be able to give you some guidance and offer him emotional support. There are chapters nationwide, as near as your phone book, or contact them online at www.aa.org.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My boyfriend, "Frank," and I have been together for four months. I'm 21 and he's 31. He was married before. This is my first serious relationship.

Sometimes we get into heated arguments because he's ready to "plan for the future" while I just want to go with the flow. He thinks I don't take our relationship seriously because I'm not ready to move in with him, get married or start a family yet. When I explain that I would love for all of that to happen—eventually—Frank says it seems more like a friendship than a relationship. That really hurts me, because I'm trying.

These arguments over my lack of "seriousness" are killing me. They started two months into the relationship. I feel pressured. If the pressure continues, I'm feeling like we may not be able to be together. I need your advice, please.

DOING THE BEST I CAN IN BOSTON

DEAR DOING THE BEST YOU CAN: You are a smart young woman with excellent instincts. Trust them. You feel pressured because you ARE being pressured. In fact, you're being given the full-court press.

Pushing for a quick involvement/commitment is one of the warning signs of an abuser. Ask yourself, What's the rush? Find out the reasons why his marriage failed. Stand your ground and don't allow yourself to be pushed into anything you are not completely comfortable with. And if it persists, end the relationship.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I'm seeing a counselor for my anxiety, and it bothers me that he yawns throughout each consultation. He sometimes apologizes for it, though. Is this inappropriate behavior for a therapist?

MIFFED IN NEW JERSEY

DEAR MIFFED: Unless your counselor is starved for oxygen or burning the candle at both ends, yes, it is. And because it is distracting to you during your sessions, tell him if it doesn't stop, you will have to find another counselor.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

Good advice for everyone—teens to seniors—is in "The Anger in All of Us and How to Deal With It." To order, send a business-size, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds only) to: Dear Abby—Anger Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

CLASSIFIED ADS



FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Lower Navy Hill Apts. Newly renovated bldg., 3BR & 2BTH. Rooms w/ A/C & fully furnished. Back-up generator. Free Wi-Fi, EPA Solar Water Heater. Laundry area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Ocean View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

Sunset View Terraces. Luxury 2BR & 1BTH Apts w/private balcony & beautiful view. Rooms w/A/C & Fully Furnished. Back-up Generator. Free Wi-Fi. Laundry Area. Nighttime security. 235-6527/28 or 285-1317.

FOR RENT - RESIDENTIAL

Fina Sisu Apt., 2-BR, 1-BTH, FF, AC, BU Genet/24-hr water, security, laundry room, free Wi-Fi & ample parking. Right behind NMC campus. MIHA applicants accepted. Special rates for NMC faculty/students. Call 235-6527/8 or 285-1317 for info.

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for used cars. Year 2003 & up. 4 cyl., Good condition. We pay cash! Pls. call 287-7676

SERVICE

Church planters prayerfully seeking start up team volunteers for new contemporary Non-denominational Christian Church launching early 2012. For more info, call 989.2459. www.church360saipan.org

WANTED TO BUY

Looking for Continental OnePass miles & Delta Skymiles. We pay cash. Call 888-2205

WHATZIT Solution: A hole in one

MAKE-A-WISH
Visit us at 885 S. Marine Dr.,
Orlean Pacific Plaza Ste. 104, Tamuning, Guam 96913
Tel: (671) 649-4151 • Fax: (671) 246-6293
Email: mawf@guam.com • www.wish.org
Office Hours: 8:30am-5:30pm, M-F daily
Saipan Tribune

STYROFOAM
4'X8' SHEETS
TEL.: 287-3700

JOB ANNOUNCEMENT CAREGIVER

Contact Person:
Anemary Yoshida
Tel.: 285-3260

CLASSIFIEDS RATES AND POLICIES

Saipan Tribune's Classifieds Section gives you the right exposure without hurting your pockets. Stretch your dollar and get results.

CLASSIFIED LINER ADS

Saipan Tribune also offers a Super Saver Package—a complete 6-day run on both print and online edition, for as low as \$27 for garage sales, apartment rentals, help wanted, auto and more. You can choose from any of the packages below.

ADS	(PRINT)	COMBO (PRINT AND ONLINE)
• 3-Liner	\$15	\$27
• 5-Liner	\$24	\$39
• 3-Liner with picture	\$24	\$42
• 5-Liner with picture	\$36	\$57

ADVERTISING DEADLINE

Classified Ads

Ads must be submitted before 12 noon 2 days prior to publication date

Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

CANCELLATION

Classified Ads

Cancellations should be made before 12 noon of the day prior to date of publication.

REFUNDS

Refunds will only be made if cancellation deadlines are met. No refunds will be made once ad is already printed.

CHECK YOUR ADS

Saipan Tribune will not be responsible for errors after the first day of publication. Errors should be called in before noon of the issue date. Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

ADVERTISING POLICY

All advertising in the Saipan Tribune are subject to applicable rate sheet, copies of which are available from the Advertising Sales Department (please call 235-8747, 235-2769 or 235-6397). All ads will be subject to approval prior to publication. We reserve the right to edit, refuse, reject or cancel any ad at any time. Also, Saipan Tribune reserves the right to place ads under proper headings and to revise copy when necessary.

Subscribe to the CNMI's First Daily Newspaper
Call 235-NEWS

WHATZIT?

Find the familiar phrase, saying or name in this arrangement of letters.

JUAN

Find today's solution in classified section

www.facebook.com/dingbatsgames

Rodgers leads perfect Packers over Raiders



GREEN BAY, Wis. (AP)—Green Bay quarterback Aaron Rodgers threw for 281 yards with two touchdowns in less than three quarters of work, leading the Packers to a 46-16 win over the Oakland Raiders on Sunday and extending their perfect NFL record.

Ryan Grant had two touchdowns rushing and Charles Woodson picked off a pass against his former team as the Packers ran their record to 13-0—moving them within three games of completing a perfect regular season. And they did it with a near-perfect performance.

Carson Palmer threw for 245 yards with a touchdown and four interceptions for the Raiders (7-6), who looked like anything but legitimate contenders in the AFC West.

The biggest concern for the Packers was an apparent left knee injury to wide receiver Greg Jennings in the third quarter.

Texans 20, Bengals 19

In Cincinnati, rookie quarterback T.J. Yates led the biggest drive in Houston history, throwing a 6-yard touchdown pass with 2 seconds left to clinch victory over Cincinnati and seal the first ever NFL playoff berth for the franchise.

With their seventh straight win, the Texans (10-3) moved to the threshold of their first playoff berth. They clinched the AFC South title a few minutes later when Tennessee lost to New Orleans.

Cincinnati (7-6) couldn't prevent the Texans from going 80 yards in the closing minutes, led by their third quarterback in the past four games. Yates' 6-yard throw to Kevin Walter—uncovered at the goal line—set off a celebration on the Houston sideline.

Saints 22, Titans 17

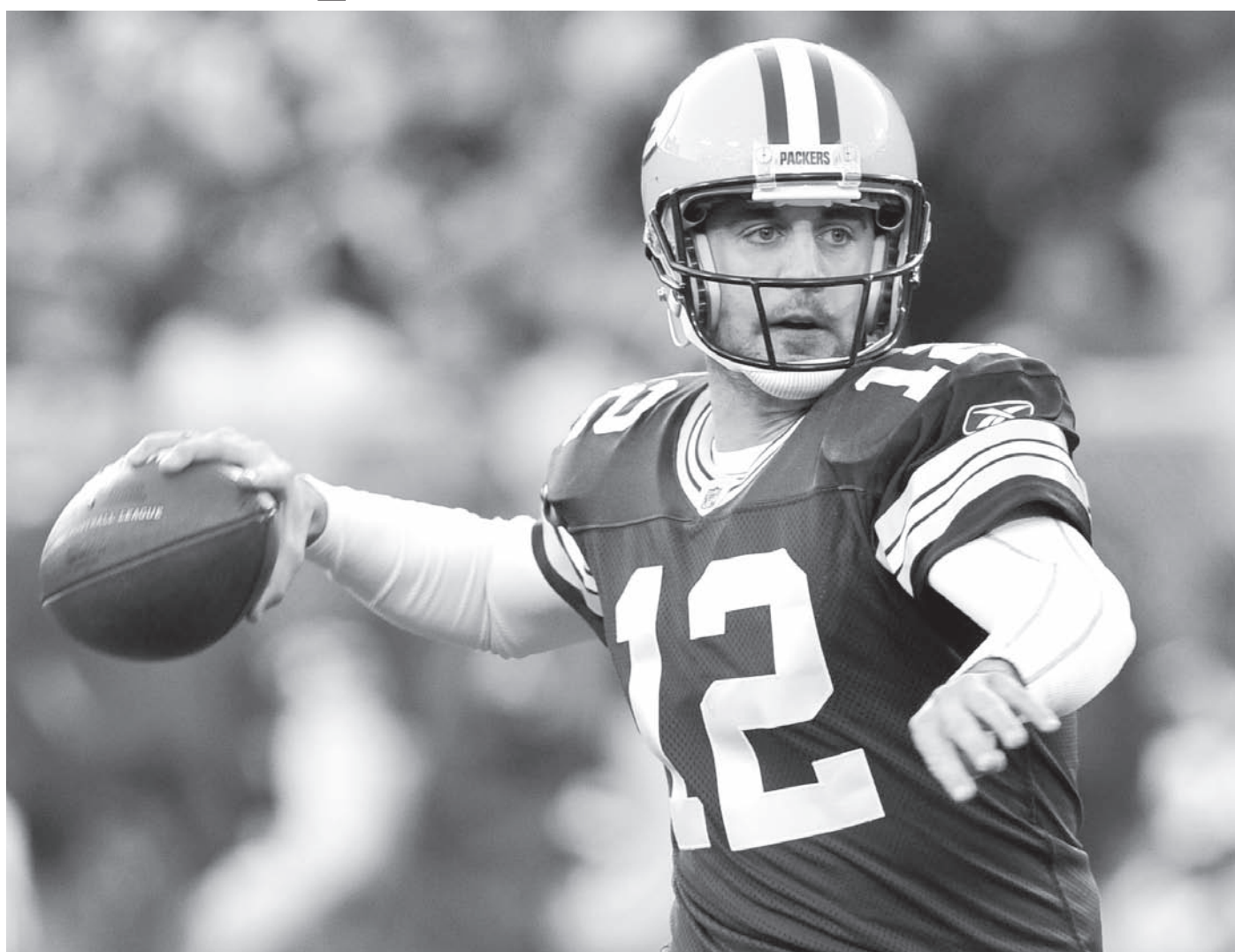
In Nashville, Tennessee, Drew Brees threw two touchdown passes to Marques Colston in the fourth quarter to lead New Orleans to its fifth straight victory, beating Tennessee.

The NFC South-leading Saints (10-3) had little trouble picking up yards, but struggled to score until Brees and Colston connected on passes of 35 and 28 yards.

The Titans (7-6) twice had the ball in the final minutes with a chance to win. The first time, New Orleans stopped Tennessee's back-up quarterback Jake Locker on fourth-and-1 at the Saints 24 with 2:18 left. The second time, Jo-Lonn Dunbar sacked a scrambling Locker on third-and-goal as time expired.

Brees threw for 347 yards and joined Hall of Famer Johnny Unitas as the only quarterbacks to throw a touchdown pass in 40 straight games.

Locker replaced Matt Hasselbeck, who hurt his left calf in the second quarter.



Green Bay Packers quarterback Aaron Rodgers drops back to pass during the first half of an NFL football game against the Oakland Raiders Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011, in Green Bay, Wis.

Cardinals 21, 49ers 19

In Glendale, Arizona, John Skelton stepped in for the injured Kevin Kolb and threw for 282 yards and three touchdowns, helping Arizona rally and inflict just the third defeat this season upon San Francisco.

Larry Fitzgerald had seven catches for 149 yards, including a 46-yarder for a touchdown and a 53-yarder to set up the go-ahead score in the fifth victory in six games for Arizona (6-7).

Kolb left the game after a blow to the head on Arizona's third play. Skelton, benched after throwing three interceptions in last month's loss at San Francisco, had a 60-yard TD pass to Early Doucet and a 3-yard toss to Andre Roberts for what proved to be the winning score early in the fourth quarter.

Broncos 13, Bears 10, OT

In Denver, Matt Prater's 51-yard field goal with 8:34 left in overtime gave Denver victory over Chicago, having kicked a 59-yarder with 2 seconds left in regulation to tie the scores.

It was Denver's sixth straight win, and half of them have come in OT since Tim Tebow was promoted to starting quarterback.

After failing to score on their first 11 possessions, the AFC West-leading Broncos (8-5) erased a 10-0 deficit in the final 2:08 of regulation.

Tebow hit Demaryius Thomas with a 10-yard touchdown pass, then got the ball back with 58 seconds left and drove Denver downfield for Prater's kick.

The Bears (7-6) won the toss in overtime and were in field

goal range when Marion Barber coughed up the football at the Broncos 34 and Elvis Dumervil recovered.

Patriots 34, Redskins 27

In Landover, Maryland, Tom Brady threw for 357 yards and three touchdowns as New England won its fifth straight, edging Washington.

Rob Gronkowski set an NFL single-season record for most touchdown catches by a tight end, adding his 14th and 15th to move past Antonio Gates and Vernon Davis.

The Patriots (10-3) again used their bend-but-don't-break defense. The Redskins drove to the New England 5-yard line late but Rex Grossman's pass went off Santana Moss' hands and was intercepted by Jerod Mayo with 22 seconds to play.

Washington (4-9) has lost eight of its past nine.

Giants 37, Cowboys 34

In Arlington, Texas, Eli Manning ended New York's four-game losing streak in style, leading the Giants to two touchdowns in the final 3:14 in a result that brought them level with Dallas for first place in the NFC East.

Dallas appeared to tie the game with a 47-yard field goal as time expired, but New York called a timeout. Given another chance to force overtime, rookie Dan Bailey's kick was blocked by Jason Pierre-Paul—who also had a sack for a safety and forced a fumble.

The Giants (7-6) and Cowboys are tied atop the division, but this victory gives New York the inside track. The teams will

meet again in the season finale, on New Year's Day, at the Giants' home field.

Jets 37, Chiefs 10

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Mark Sanchez threw two touchdown passes and ran for two more scores as New York downed Kansas City and kept pace in the AFC playoff race.

The Jets got things started quickly by scoring 28 points in the first half and were helped by an inept Chiefs offense that managed just four total yards in the first two quarters.

Shonn Greene had a season-high 129 yards rushing and a score, and Santonio Holmes and LaDainian Tomlinson each caught touchdown passes for the Jets (8-5), who have won three straight and improved to 6-1 at home.

Tyler Palko was sacked five times in a miserable outing by the penalty-plagued Chiefs (5-8).

Falcons 31, Panthers 23

In Charlotte, North Carolina, Matt Ryan threw two fourth-quarter touchdown passes to rookie Julio Jones as Atlanta erased a 16-point deficit and overran Carolina.

Ryan threw for 320 yards and tied a career high with four touchdowns passing. Atlanta (8-5) avoided a costly loss to stay alive in the NFC wild card race.

For the Panthers (4-8), it was the sixth time this season they've lost after being ahead or tied in the fourth quarter. In October they fell 31-17 to Atlanta despite leading 17-14 go-

ing into the fourth quarter.

Cam Newton threw two touchdown passes as the Panthers built a 23-7 halftime lead but was intercepted twice in the second half.

Chargers 37, Bills 10

In San Diego, Philip Rivers threw three touchdown passes, two to Antonio Gates, as San Diego beat Buffalo to keep its playoff hopes alive.

Buffalo (5-8) lost its sixth straight game and was eliminated from playoff contention for the 12th straight year. The Chargers (6-7) have bounced back from their own six-game skid with back-to-back wins.

Rivers was 24 of 33 for 240 yards. Ryan Mathews gained 114 yards on 20 carries, the first time he's had three straight 100-yard games.

Ravens 24, Colts 10

In Baltimore, Terrell Suggs had three sacks and forced three fumbles for Baltimore, keeping Indianapolis winless.

Baltimore (10-3) limited the Colts (0-13) to 167 yards—53 through three quarters. Were it not for a touchdown on the game's final play, Indianapolis would have been held without a TD for the second time since the 2003 season opener.

Joe Flacco threw two touchdown passes and Ray Rice ran for 103 yards and a score to help the Ravens win their fourth straight and improve to 7-0 at home. Baltimore is tied with Pittsburgh for the lead in the AFC North. The Ravens hold the tiebreaker with two wins over the Steelers.

Colts quarterback Dan Orlovsky was 17 for 37 for 136 yards and an interception. He was sacked four times.

Lions 34, Vikings 28

In Detroit, Minnesota's backup quarterback Joe Webb fumbled deep in Lions territory in the final seconds, and Detroit escaped with a much-needed victory.

Matthew Stafford threw for two scores in the first quarter to give Detroit one of its three-touchdown leads. The Lions (8-5) played without defensive tackle Ndamukong Suh, who is serving the second game of his two-game suspension.

Webb led the Vikings (2-11) to TDs on his first two drives after rookie Christian Ponder was benched.

On first-and-goal from the 1 with 9 seconds left, a replay appeared to show Webb was grabbed by the facemask, but a flag wasn't thrown. The ball popped free at about the 11, and was batted back toward midfield by Detroit's Stephen Tulloch. Webb ran it down and tried to pick it up, but the ball came loose again and Cliff Avril finally fell on it to end the game.

Eagles 26, Dolphins 10

In Miami, Philadelphia forced three turnovers while scoring four times during a nine-minute span in the second quarter and totaled nine sacks in the victory over Miami.

Eagles quarterback Michael Vick, back after missing three games with broken ribs, threw for 208 yards and a touchdown. LeSean McCoy scored two touchdowns to hike his season total to 17.

The Eagles (5-8) still need a sweep of the final three games to have any chance of repeating as NFC East champions. The Dolphins (4-9) had a three-game home winning streak snapped and sank deeper into last place in the AFC East.

Philadelphia sent quarterback Matt Moore to the sideline in the second half with a head injury.

Jaguars 41, Buccaneers 14

In Jacksonville, Maurice Jones-Drew scored four times, setting the franchise record for career touchdowns, as Jacksonville rolled up 41 unanswered points in an easy win over Tampa Bay.

Jones-Drew finished with 136 total yards, including 85 on the ground against one of the league's worst run defenses.

Tampa Bay's bigger problem in its seventh consecutive loss was turnovers. The Buccaneers (4-9) had seven of them, helping set up each of Jacksonville's four TDs in the second quarter.

The Jaguars (4-9), who hadn't scored more than 20 points all season, scored four times in a span of 7:32. They scored on offense, defense and special teams in the same game for the first time since 1998.

Quiros wins Dubai World Championship

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Spaniard Alvaro Quiros holed a 40-foot eagle putt on the 18th to clinch a two-shot win over Paul Lawrie at the Dubai World Championship on Sunday as No. 1-ranked Luke Donald became the first golfer in history to win both the American and European money titles.

The 34-year-old Donald, who won the American title earlier this year, had to finish better than ninth or hope his only rival Rory McIlroy didn't win the tournament. He finished third while McIlroy, who has struggled with a lingering virus all week,

finished with a 9-under 279 and a tie for 11th in the tournament. That left McIlroy more than €1 million (\$1.34 million) behind Donald in the money race.

"It's funny to kind of sum up my feelings," said Donald, who has just come back from five weeks off in which he buried his father Colin and was on hand for the birth of his second child.

"You know, this is something I've wanted for the past few months, to try and win both money lists," Donald said. "It's very strange because I looked at the leaderboard on 13 and couldn't see Rory. I couldn't see Rory's name on there and the leaders were playing well, and at that point, I kind of knew I had made history and the last six holes were kind of surreal."

Quiros finished with a 19-under total of 269 on the Earth Course at Jumeirah Golf Estates. Donald was three shots behind Quiros after he ran off three birdies in a row for a 6-under 66. Peter Hanson of Sweden was fourth, a further two shots back, and Masters champion Charl Schwartzel was in fifth a further shot behind.

The big-hitting Quiros came into the final day with a two-shot lead but squandered it after he had three bogeys on the front nine to go with five birdies. Lawrie, the 1999 British Open champion who led after the first day, took the lead after he notched five birdies in his first eight holes.

But Lawrie bogeyed the 12th after an approach shot missed the green and Quiros then birdied the 14th to take the lead for good. Lawrie's short game continued to haunt him when an errant chip on 16 cost him a birdie chance. Then, the 42-year-old Lawrie missed a 6-foot birdie putt at the 17th that would have tied it.

Quiros managed to reach the 18th green in two while Lawrie was there in three. Quiros



Alvaro Quiros from Spain holds the trophy after winning the final round of the Dubai World Championship golf tournament on Sunday, Dec. 11, 2011 in Dubai, United Arab Emirates.

clinched the win with a 40-foot eagle putt. The Spaniard pumped his fist as the crowd cheered. The win was just Quiros' second this year on the tour—after the Dubai Desert Classic—and sixth overall on the tour.

It was a much happier ending than a week ago, when Quiros had a 3-shot lead going into the final round of the Hong Kong

Open. He let it slip after erratic drives and poor putting resulted in him finishing in a tie for seventh and five shots behind eventual winner McIlroy, who holed a greenside bunker shot to win.

Quiros praised the rivalry that developed over the final round with Lawrie, who ended a nine-year drought earlier this year with a tournament victory in Spain.

"I was hitting good shots all day but Paul was marvelous," he said. "He was holing every single putt. He was in contention every single time. I think he was just one or two times in trouble and the second one was on 12. From this moment onwards, it changed the situation completely."

Quiros said he felt he had the

advantage coming into the par-5 18th. But even with the one-shot lead, the 28-year-old Spaniard said he never considered laying up because Lawrie was putting so well and Donald had moved into contention with a string of birdies down the stretch. He also was worried about his slim lead, after Lawrie's approach shot came down within 12-foot of the cup. He would eventually sink it for a birdie.

"I heard the people's roars after Luke holed a good putt on 17 and 18 and obviously Paul just was one shot behind me," Quiros said. "He (Lawrie) hit a good shot and the way he was putting all day, I thought, you know, the putt that he has is very hole-able, makable. I was looking to give myself a chance, a meter-and-a-half around the hole ... And then the putt was simple as, perfect, genius."

Lawrie refused to dwell on his mistakes, insisting he had done everything to win. Rather than talk about any one hole Sunday, he alluded to Friday where he drove the ball poorly on the way to a 1-over 73 in the second round.

"I think anybody would tell you they are disappointed not to win," Lawrie said. "I probably did enough to have a chance coming down the 18th and that's all you can do. Alvaro, he's got at least 250 yards uphill into the wind on 18 with a 3-wood off a hanging lie. Any time you make a three off that lie, he's a worthy winner."

Despite finishing second, the 42-year-old Lawrie said his performance has given him hope that he still a future on the tour and possibly a few more victories.

"I worked very hard last winter and hit a lot of balls and put a lot of time in," he said. "I knew I was 42 and time is running out a wee bit. So if you are going have another go at it, you might as well go now. So nice to be in there and thereabouts have a chance to win tournaments again."

NBA BRIEFS

Kobe upset by Odom's departure for Dallas

EL SEGUNDO, Calif.

(AP)—The Lakers have traded forward Lamar Odom and a second-round draft pick to the Dallas Mavericks for a first-round pick and an \$8.9 million trade exception, capping Los Angeles' stunning 72-hour breakup with last season's Sixth Man of the Year. The Lakers and Mavericks announced the deal Sunday night, three days after Odom learned Los Angeles was attempting to trade him in a megadeal for New Orleans superstar Chris Paul. After the NBA blocked that trade, Odom declined to report to the Lakers' opening day of training camp on Friday. Odom then requested a trade, and the Lakers improbably swung a deal with the rival Mavericks, who swept Los Angeles out of the second round of last season's playoffs. Odom will aid the Mavs' recovery from Tyson Chandler's departure.

Howard and GM haven't talked since trade request

ORLANDO, Fla. (AP)—Magic center Dwight Howard says he hasn't spoken with general manager Otis Smith since telling the executive that he wants to be traded. Howard said Sunday that he conveyed to management several times during the pre-lockout offseason the type of personnel moves he would like to see that could persuade him to stay in Orlando. But he says those suggestions were ignored. Smith has said he will pursue trade options, but that the team's goal remains keeping the All-Star center's services. Howard acknowledged for the first time on Saturday that he formally requested a trade. Smith had previously granted New Jersey, Dallas and the Los Angeles Lakers permission to talk to Howard's agent, Dan Fegan, about possible deals.

Brewers' Braun doesn't fit steroid user stereotype



MILWAUKEE (AP)—

Ryan Braun certainly doesn't fit the image fans conjure up when they hear that a baseball slugger has been accused of using performance-enhancing drugs.

Since he joined the Milwaukee Brewers in 2007, Braun has belted big home runs not with cartoonishly large muscles, but with a sweet swing and an ultra-quick bat. Last season, he helped drive the Brewers to the playoffs and was voted the NL's Most Valuable Player.

Now Braun finds himself fighting a 50-game suspension after news leaked that he has tested positive for a banned substance. He steadfastly maintains his innocence.

A spokesman for Braun said in a statement issued to ESPN

and The Associated Press that there are "highly unusual circumstances surrounding this case which will support Ryan's complete innocence."

ESPN cited two sources Saturday in first reporting the result, saying Braun tested positive for elevated levels of testosterone, adding that a later test by the World Anti-Doping Agency lab in Montreal determined the testosterone was synthetic. Braun is appealing, according to people familiar with the case.

And fans may be inclined to believe Braun, given his clean-cut image and that he hasn't tested positive or even been suspected of using banned substances in the past. And, perhaps above all, the fact that he doesn't look like a human science experiment.

But there is a long history

of athletes accused of taking banned drugs insisting they did so to recover from injuries. Sports medicine experts acknowledge the drugs may help, raising the possibility Braun might have been doing just that.

Norman Fost, a professor of pediatrics and director of the bioethics program at the University of Wisconsin, said vigorous exercise breaks down microscopic muscle fibers.

"One theory is that anabolic steroids hasten the repair of those muscle fibers, and allow you to work out harder," Fost said.

Dr. Susannah Briskin, a primary care sports medicine physician with Rainbow Babies and Children's Hospital in Cleveland, says the potential injury recovery benefits associated with anabolic steroids have been tested on a limited basis

but only on animals.

"This stuff will never end up being studied with humans," Briskin said. "Any medical study must start with, 'Do no harm.' The problem is, there's been a lot of harm proven in studying anabolic steroids."

According to a document on the Mayo Clinic's website, the potential injury recovery benefits of performance-enhancing drugs are part of their appeal to athletes.

"Besides making muscles bigger, anabolic steroids may help athletes recover from a hard workout more quickly by reducing the muscle damage that occurs during the session," the document says. "This enables athletes to workout harder and more frequently without overtraining. In addition, some athletes may like the aggressive

feelings they get when they take the drugs."

Braun has dealt with nagging injuries in recent years, and other players have acknowledged they used performance enhancers to help them recover from injury.

One of the most well-known is pitcher Andy Pettitte, who said he used human growth hormone to recover from an injury, not to enhance his performance. Given the generally positive public reception to Pettitte's admission, Fost wonders why more athletes accused of using banned substances don't just follow his lead.

"What amazes me and mystifies me is that every athlete hasn't figured out that's a correct answer—and an answer that seems to be deemed acceptable," Fost said.

SSS' new youth futsal league starts Thursday



Saipan Soccer School will start its new youth futsal league on Dec. 15 and will last for three weeks until Jan. 8, 2012. There will be three youth divisions—U18 Boys, U15 Boys, and U17 Girls.

Teams are limited to four in each division, and teams should provide jersey numbers for easier identification of each player. Due to a limitation of teams that can play in this league, registration deadline is on Dec. 13, 2011 and is on a first-come, first-serve basis.

Games will have two equal periods of 20 minutes, timeouts of 1 minute, and halftimes of 5 minutes. Saipan Soccer School emphasizes that all games must always start on time and encourages coaches and support personnel to ensure that all team members are present

and equipped to play. There is a \$10 registration fee per player. Registration and waiver forms are available at the Saipan Soccer School office at the 2nd Floor JP Center or contact Mae Ito at 287-3607 for more information. (SSS)



HOLE-IN-ONE PRIZE
Takagi and Associate's Saipan branch manager Suzie Perez, T&A's Crystal Sasaki, and Frannie Pangelinan present Takagi's hole-in-one donation of \$5,000 to Saipan Chamber of Commerce president Doug Brennan, executive director Richard Pierce, and administrator/planner Janice Tenorio. The SCC golf tournament will be at the Coral Ocean Point on Dec. 17. Call 233-7150 to register.

DFS

From Page 28

the first half. He failed to make more than two field goals in each of the four quarters and left the game at the 2:44 mark of the fourth period with 16 hard-earned points and his head bowed after a rough night. “We just played a simple 2-3 zone defense and watched out for PSS’ scorers and their motion offense. We stuck together in the paint,” White said. The most effective way to beat DFS’ 2-3 zone was to take and make outside shots, but PSS was also not lucky in that department. With Sablan off and challenged by DFS defenders, PSS called on Walter Mendez, Gus Palacios, Lawrence Buniag, Maverick Itibus, and Jerry Diaz, but no one responded. If only coach John

Sablan could field himself in the game to give PSS the needed outside shooting boost. PSS’ big guys failed to deliver big games, too. Fitial like Sablan had to bleed for points before finishing in double figures with 17. His driving lanes were shut down, he missed most of his outside shots, and entry passes were hard to come by. Mel Manibusan, who stepped up in the semis, made eight points, but his presence was hardly felt in the all-important game. James Villacrusis chipped in 10, but was held to a field goal in the second half. No PSS player logged more than two field goals in each of the four periods. With PSS continuing to struggle offensively in the second quarter, DFS’ lead ballooned to 24 at halftime, 51-27. Dan Barcinas led the second-quarter breakaway with his 12 points, while

Lizama added seven and finished the first half with 15. DFS managed to pull away despite momentarily losing White early in the second canto. The DFS coach was forced to sit on the bench after getting an accidental elbow from a driving Sablan and sustaining a cut on the top right of his head. White returned to the game in the third period with a bandage wrapped around his head. Later in the fourth canto, Iguel had the same dressing applied above his right eyebrow, which suffered a cut off another elbow from Sablan. Iguel left the court with over six minutes remaining in the third after scoring 22 points. With Iguel down, Barcinas, Lizama, Guiab, and White stayed together and were joined by sixth man Won Joo Jung. The quintet still outgunned PSS in the third, 20-11, for a commanding

71-38 lead. Only Fitial, Sablan, and Itibus scored for PSS in another anemic production in the third canto. DFS led by as much as 37 when Iguel reported back to the game in the fourth quarter and recorded six more points for a game-high 28 markers. PSS managed to cut it down to as low as 25 when it started to score garbage points. DFS stayed with its six-man rotation in the fourth before sending its shock troopers in the last two minutes with the game way out of PSS’ hand. **DFS Galleria 92** – Iguel 28, Lizama 27, Barcinas 21, Guiab 8, White 6, Jung 2. **PSS/McGraw-Hill 63** – Fitial 17, Sablan 16, Villacrusis 10, Manibusan 8, Mendez 4, Buniag 3, Itibus 2, Diaz 1. **Scoring by quarters:** 28-15, 51-27, 71-38, 92-63.

PAIRE

From Page 28

bye in Pool A of the 10-team FA Challenge Cup and automatically advanced to the quarterfinals. MP United Blue

had to beat Matansa U15, 3-1, to march into the next round against Paire U18. Paire U18’s semis foe, MP United U18, drew Paire women squad in the first round of Pool A matches and won, 11-1, to move into the semis.

In Pool B, Paire U15 was paired first against Tan Holdings and prevailed, 3-2, to set a semis duel against MP United Silver, which had a bye in the first round. Matansa U18 and Shirley’s FC women’s team were pitted in the other Pool B

matches with the former winning, 2-1. The FA Challenge Cup is the culmination of Northern Mariana Island Football Association’s 2011 season, featuring two women’s teams, five boys U15 squads, and three boys U18 teams.

SLIGHT

From Page 28

motions’ mixed martial arts event includes Guam’s Ryan Toves of Dededo’s Lights Out Gym clashing with Marianas Eliet’s V.J. Pua at 150 lbs, Guam’s Jared Mellon of Spike 22 and Ground Fu challenging independent Dung Castro at 175 lbs; and Josh “Chaos” Duenas facing Guam’s Josh “The Hedgehog” Duenas of Countershot MMA in a 135-lb bout. All five bouts mentioned will precede Trench Warz 15’s heavyweight main event at 230 lbs between Trench Tech’s Mylo “Bam Bam” Lassiter (1-1) and Guam’s Manny “The Enforcer” Chong

(8-8) of the Thug Cop Fight Club. Before the Chong-Lassiter bout, Trench Tech’s Shane “Pikaboo” Alvarez (7-0) will step inside the octagon cage with his featherweight title on the line against Guam’s Rob “The Real Deal” Wusstig (2-5) of Countershot MMA. Following the title bout and just before the heavyweight finale, Trench Tech’s Fasi “Quickdraw” Jesse (7-4) will duel with Marianas Elite’s Maitai “The Charger” Charley (3-7) in the semi-main event set at 145 lbs. Other MMA matchups set for the evening include Zalaka’s Jake “One Blow” Ilo (0-1) going toe to toe with Tinian’s Craig “Earthquake” Borja (2-1)

of Zeng Zung at 140 lbs; Zalaka’s Joe “Da Combo” Duenas (1-0) challenging Countershot newcomer Leandro “Leanderlai” Dalalo at 130 lbs; Trench Tech’s Mark “The Dark” Nuique (5-0) facing off with Predator Combat’s “Tabi” Jay Muna (2-10) at 135 lbs; and Trench Tech’s Martin “Ningbo Slice” Cepeda (3-1) squaring off against Countershot’s Keith Corpuz, of Guam, in a light heavyweight match set at 190 lbs. Moreover, Zalaka’s John Ilo will be paired against Tinian’s Rentz “The Intense” Benghit of Team Relentless in a K-1 Kickboxing match at 145 lbs. and Ilo’s teammate Zac Reyes will take on Tinian-Zeng Zung’s George

“Kamikaze” Manglona in a boxing match at 145 lbs. All undercard bouts will take place under three 3-minute rounds, while the boxing and K-1 features will exhibit three two-minute rounds. The main event matches will have three 5-minute rounds and the title match will have five 5-minute rounds. The listed MMA records were derived from www.sherdog.com; all matches are subject to change. Tickets cost \$20 for general admission and \$30 for VIP seating and are on sale right now at Tha Trap, Boarderline, Docomo Pacific, and at the Trench Tech Gym in San Antonio.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NFL STANDINGS

AMERICAN CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
New England	10	3	0	.769	396	274
N.Y. Jets	8	5	0	.615	327	270
Buffalo	5	8	0	.385	288	341
Miami	4	9	0	.308	256	246

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Houston	10	3	0	.769	330	208
Tennessee	7	6	0	.538	266	251
Jacksonville	4	9	0	.308	193	252
Indianapolis	0	13	0	.000	184	382

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Baltimore	10	3	0	.769	320	202
Pittsburgh	10	3	0	.769	282	198
Cincinnati	7	6	0	.538	285	270
Cleveland	4	9	0	.308	178	254

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
Denver	8	5	0	.615	269	302
Oakland	7	6	0	.538	290	354
San Diego	6	7	0	.462	324	299
Kansas City	5	8	0	.385	173	305

NATIONAL CONFERENCE

East	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
N.Y. Giants	7	6	0	.538	324	349
Dallas	7	6	0	.538	317	281
Philadelphia	5	8	0	.385	297	292
Washington	4	9	0	.308	229	290

South	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
x-New Orleans	10	3	0	.769	415	286
Atlanta	8	5	0	.615	300	267
Carolina	4	9	0	.308	313	355
Tampa Bay	4	9	0	.308	232	370

North	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-Green Bay	13	0	0	1.000	466	278
Detroit	8	5	0	.615	367	305
Chicago	7	6	0	.538	301	255
Minnesota	2	11	0	.154	274	364

West	W	L	T	Pct	PF	PA
y-San Francisco	10	3	0	.769	307	182
Arizona	6	7	0	.462	253	288
Seattle	5	7	0	.417	216	246
St. Louis	2	10	0	.167	140	296

x-clinched playoff spot y-clinched division

Yesterday's Games

New Orleans 22, Tennessee 17
Baltimore 24, Indianapolis 10
N.Y. Jets 37, Kansas City 10
Detroit 34, Minnesota 28
Houston 20, Cincinnati 19
Jacksonville 41, Tampa Bay 14
Atlanta 31, Carolina 23
Philadelphia 26, Miami 10
New England 34, Washington 27
Arizona 21, San Francisco 19
Denver 13, Chicago 10, OT
San Diego 37, Buffalo 10
Green Bay 46, Oakland 16
N.Y. Giants 37, Dallas 34

DUBAI WORLD CHAMPIONSHIP SCORES

DUBAI, United Arab Emirates (AP)—Scores Sunday from the Dubai World Championship, a \$7.5 million European Tour event at the par-72, 7,675-yard Earth course at Jumeirah Golf Estates:

FINAL ROUND

Alvaro Quiros, Spain	68-64-64-67—269
Pau Lawrie, Scotland	65-73-66-67—271
Luke Donald, England	72-68-66-66—272
Peter Hanson, Sweden	64-72-71-67—274
Charl Schwartzel, South Africa	69-71-68-67—275
Louis Oosthuizen, South Africa	72-67-66-71—276
Francesco Molinari, Italy	71-68-68-69—276
Robert Rock, England	68-69-71-69—277
Shane Lowry, Ireland	69-70-68-70—277
Pablo Larrazabal, Spain	71-68-70-69—278
Graeme McDowell, N. Ireland	71-71-71-66—279
Rory McIlroy, N. Ireland	66-71-71-71—279
Sergio Garcia, Spain	67-73-68-71—279
Martin Kaymer, Germany	73-71-64-71—279
Robert Karlsson, Sweden	72-68-68-66—279
Paul Casey, England	72-66-70-72—280
Johan Edfors, Sweden	72-68-72-68—280
David Lynn, England	69-72-70-69—280
Fredrik Andersson Hed, Sweden	75-66-72-69—282
Thorbjorn Olesen, Denmark	70-73-70-69—282
Nicolas Colsemaerts, Belgium	72-74-67-69—282
Hennie Otto, South Africa	70-75-71-67—283
George Coetzee, South Africa	74-73-69-67—283
Jaco Van Zyl, South Africa	69-70-72-72—283
Ian Poulter, England	73-69-68-73—283
Thomas Aiken, South Africa	69-73-75-67—284
Rafael Cabrera-Bello, Spain	72-70-74-68—284
Jamie Donaldson, Wales	75-69-69-71—284
Thomas Bjorn, Denmark	73-70-71-71—285
Gregory Bourdy, France	70-73-71-71—285
Gonzalo Fdez-Castano, Spain	70-71-72-72—285
Edoardo Molinari, Italy	71-73-68-73—285
Lee Westwood, England	73-69-69-74—285
Mark Foster, England	76-71-70-69—286
Ernie Els, South Africa	74-69-73-70—286
Matteo Manassero, Italy	73-68-72-73—286
Retief Goosen, South Africa	74-69-75-69—287
Lorenzo Gagli, Italy	72-71-73-71—287
Felipe Aguilar, Chile	70-77-68-72—287
David Horsey, England	69-72-73-73—287
Alexander Noren, Sweden	70-72-70-75—287
Thomas Levett, France	70-75-69-74—288
Richie Ramsay, Scotland	74-69-70-75—288
Miguel Angel Jimenez, Spain	71-77-71-71—290
Anders Hansen, Denmark	74-73-69-74—290
Simon Dyson, England	77-75-69-70—291
Ross Fisher, England	68-74-75-74—291
Gregory Havret, France	72-72-72-76—292
Raphael Jacquelin, France	74-67-74-77—292
Rhys Davies, Wales	73-73-69-77—292
Joost Luiten, Netherlands	76-71-73-73—293
Peter Lawrie, Ireland	75-74-71-73—293
James Morrison, England	75-70-76-73—294
Scott Jamieson, Scotland	72-72-79-73—296
Michael Hoey, N. Ireland	75-72-76-73—296
Christian Nilsson, Sweden	76-73-73-75—297
Darren Clarke, N. Ireland	76-72-75-76—299

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

MP United vs Paire in FA Cup Finals

PHOTOS By ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Paire and MP United U12 team and game officials walk to center court for the start of the championship game in the 2011 NMIFA Boys and Girls FA Cup last Saturday at the Hopwood Junior High School Field.



Paire's Gideon Borja, second from right, kicks the ball during the first half of their game against MP United.



MP United's Colin Ramsey goes for a strong kick.



MP United's Amir Abes, left, is mobbed by his teammates after scoring a goal in the first half.



MP United players gets ready for defense against a corner kick from Paire.



MP United's Alex Park looks for a teammate to pass the ball to.



A Paire player is up against a phalanx of MP United defenders.



Paire captain Elnathan Wong makes a throw-in.



MP United coach Joel Jimenez join his players in celebrating their title win.



Paire goalie Ennis Siech dives for a save.

Quiros wins
Dubai World
Championship

PAGE 25

Saipan Tribune Sports

Rodgers leads
perfect Packers
over Raiders

PAGE 24

SAIPAN TRIBUNE

28 TUESDAY, DECEMBER 13, 2011

DFS Galleria clinches title

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

DFS Galleria pressed all the right buttons in their winner-take-all championship match against PSS/McGraw-Hill in the 3rd Annual Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League for an emphatic 92-63 victory last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

DFS read PSS' pressure defense, ran its usual fastbreak plays, nearly played perfect defense, stuck with a solid six-



man rotation, and remained focus despite temporarily losing two key players to take the lopsided win in the championship.

PSS, which killed Fiesta Resort & Spa with relentless pressure defense for a convincing semis win, did the same thing against DFS early in the first



ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DFS Galleria assistant general manager Ben Babauta, standing seventh from left, is joined by DFS players for a group photo after their 92-63 title win over PSS/McGraw-Hill in the Shirley's caging last Sunday night at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

quarter, but this time the plan backfired.

"PSS ran a 2-2-1 press right at the very start of the first quarter and we immediately knew what to do to break that. We looked for gaps, positioned ourselves away from the guarded spots, and let Dan Barcinas carry the ball for us," said

player/coach Gabriel White.

Barcinas protected the ball well, while White, Pete Iguel, Junar Guiab, and Jack Lizama were always at the right spots to receive the pass and were able to dribble out of their defenders. Iguel also managed to score several fastbreak points every time DFS beat PSS' press and

he finished with 18 big points in the first quarter alone, giving his team a 28-15 lead. PSS let go of its press midway in the first frame and used it sparingly in the next three quarters.

DFS won despite missing the services of Quincy Johnson the entire game.

While PSS' press was an ex-

ercise in futility, DFS' defense was as tough as nails that even eventual scoring champion and regular season MVP Dave Sablan could not break it. Sablan missed his first six attempts and was limited to five points in

**See DFS on
Page 26**

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

DFS Galleria's Pete Iguel pulls away with a fastbreak layup in the fourth quarter of their game against PSS/McGraw-Hill in the Shirley's caging finals last Sunday at the Gillette Multipurpose Gymnasium.

Iguel takes Finals MVP

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

A visibly annoyed Pete Iguel left the third quarter of the DFS-PSS title game after sustaining a cut above his right eyebrow. He then returned in the fourth and finished the game with a smile on his face, as DFS

See IGUEL on Page 26

Paire U18, MP United Silver win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
roselyn_monroyo@saipantribune.com
REPORTER



Paire U18
and MP
United
Silver

clinched the last two semis berths in the 2011 FA Challenge Cup after recording separate victories at the Oleai Sports Complex Field last Saturday.

Paire U18 notched the third semis seat after beating MP United Blue in the first match at the Oleai pitch, 3-1, while MP United Silver secured the last Final Four ticket after eliminating Paire U15 in the second game of the day, 1-0.

The two semis matches will be played tomorrow with Paire U18 taking on MP United U18 at 5pm at the Oleai pitch. In the second game at 7:30pm, MP United Silver will challenge Matansa FC U18. Winners of the two semis games will duel for the championship this Saturday.



Zhi Lin made a pair of goals for Paire, while Timothy Tawanpi scored the other goal. David Kim nailed the lone goal for MP United Blue, which is composed of U15 players.

Up against a more experienced team, MP United Blue had Paire U18's numbers early in the game when Kim scored. MP United Blue went on to keep the lead at halftime, as Paire U18 still struggled on offense.

However, Paire found its rhythm in the second half with Lin nailing twin goals and Tawanpi also finding the back of the net.

Paire U18 drew a first-round **See PAIRE on Page 26**

Timothy Tawanpi, seen here with the ball during an elimination round game in the NMIFA U18 league, scored one of the two goals in Paire's 3-1 win over MP United Blue in the FA Challenge Cup last Saturday at the Oleai Sports Complex Field.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Jesse

Charley

Slight change in Trench Warz 15 fight card

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
walter_sutherland@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Instead of Trench Tech's Vince "The Clinch" Masga, Fight Shop's Dennis Cruz will be taking on Trench Tech's Irvin Saralu in the 150-lb weight class in Trench Warz 15: Supremacy set for Friday, Dec. 16, at

the Royal Taga Ballroom of the Saipan World Resort.

Meanwhile, Masga, who has a 1-0 win-loss record, will be paired against Marianas Elite's Danny Agulto also at the 150-lb weight division.

Other recent editions to Trench Tech Purebred Pro- See SLIGHT on **Page 26**